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Champion

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COUNCIL TAX BILLS SET TO RISE BY 5.65%

'We face further significant financial challenges ahead...'

Cllr Adam Yates

Report by **Kenny Parker**

COUNCIL taxpayers in West Lancashire will see their bills rise by 5.65% overall this year after the borough council announced that its portion of the bill would increase by 2.99%.

West Lancs Council's share of the bill amounts to just over 11%. Lancashire County Council had already announced that it will increase its part of the bill by 5.99%, while the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and Lancashire Constabulary have increased their precepts by 2.99% and 7.25% respectively.

Residents in the top two Council Tax Bands are also being asked to make a voluntary contribution of £100 to support a fund for important community projects.

Residents in top two housing bands will be asked to make £100 'voluntary contribution' to support community projects

The borough council said it was introducing the increase against the backdrop of continued cuts from central government and other factors, amounting to a more than 30% reduction in the annual budget requirement over the last eight years.

To achieve this, the council says it has had to make savings and generate additional income amounting to more than £10 million. This includes approximately £1 million in savings and income that have been identified for the forthcoming financial year.

However, despite the rise, borough council chiefs say they are confident they will be able to maintain the frontline services they are responsible for.

The borough council has also revealed plans for a new development company which they say will help the authority deliver 'ambitious and exciting revenue-generating projects for the future.'

Continued inside

The Concourse Shopping Centre

Concourse dealt fresh blow as bakery opts to leave centre

Report by **Henry James**

THE Concourse has been dealt a fresh blow after bosses at Greggs announced they are to leave the Skelmersdale shopping centre.

The announcement comes on the back of other worrying news concerning stores belonging to fashion retailer New Look and discount chain Poundworld.

Both retailers, who have outlets in the Concourse, said this week they are considering closing stores as part of restructuring proposals.

The Greggs closure on March 31 will add to the number of empty units in the Skelmersdale shopping where 19% of the 90 units are now void.

It is understood that New Look and Poundworld are thinking about entering into a company voluntary arrangement (CVA). This is a legal agreement which would allow them to scrap stores which are not making money and negotiate rent reductions with landlords. ***Cont. inside***

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Council Tax bills to rise by 5.65%

From Page 1

Councillor Adam Yates, the council's portfolio holder for Finance, said: "For the best part of a decade, this council has had its funding reduced year-on-year by central government. This is set to continue over the next three years and so we face further significant financial challenges ahead.

"However, we are determined to maintain front-line services and to promote growth by investing in our towns and villages across the borough.

"Through initiatives such as our new development company, we will be looking to generate additional income and make a positive social impact by providing more affordable housing across West Lancs.

"We are also undertaking a full strategic review of all council services to improve accessibility for residents and to deliver further efficiencies where possible.

"And we are asking residents in the top two Council Tax Bands to make a voluntary contribution of £100 to support a fund for important community projects such as the Junk Food Café in Skelmersdale."

The latest increases in Council Tax mean that from April and before any local parish precept is added, residents in Band A properties will have to pay a total of £1,158.21. The bills for other bands are as follows:
Band B - £1,352.26.
Band C - £1,544.28.
Band D - £1,737.32.
Band E - £2,122.71.
Band F - £2,509.27.
Band G - £2,895.54.
Band H - £3,473.81.

The authority says it still needs to save or raise additional income of between £1.5 million and £2 million by 2020/21.

Council leaders claim they have managed to continue the funding of front-line services through efficiency savings and have made targeted investments in a number of key areas.

The council cabinet will consider later this year, the plans for a new development company which they say will help the authority deliver 'ambitious and exiting revenue-generating projects for the future.'

● ***Changes to garden waste services - see page 10***

Authority to carry out review of services

Project could take up to three years to complete

WEST Lancs Council is to carry out a Sustainable Organisation Review of the whole authority.

This will examine how the council's activities match its future needs and how to best deliver the council's vision and priorities going forward.

It will look at whether there is scope for further efficiencies and savings that have a minimal impact on front-line services, and if additional income can be generated to fund existing services or develop new services.

Independent experts will be sought to support an internal project team to deliver the review. They will undertake a study, or series of studies, considering where there is scope for further income/efficiencies and savings, drawing on good practice examples from other authorities.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "There are exciting times ahead for West Lancashire with the projects the council is involved in. To help us achieve our ambitions we need to undertake this review of our services and we will work hard to minimise the impact that any changes have on residents."

Having seen how other authorities have undertaken such projects, it is expected that the review will be delivered in a number of stages that may take up to three years to complete.

The 1st Skelmersdale Methodist Scout group are to celebrate eight decades of scouting in the town

Barnes Road Scouts to celebrate 80 years in town

THE 1st Skelmersdale Methodist Scout group are to celebrate 80 years of scouting in the town.

The group was founded in 1938 and has played an active part in the community since then.

It is locally called 'Barnes Road Scouts' and has three sections: Beavers six years to eight years, Cubs seven and a half years to 10.5 years and Scouts 10.5 years to 14 years. The group also host an Explorer Unit aged 14 years to 18 years.

Barnes Road Scouts was founded by the headteacher of the local primary school, John Proctor, in Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale, and later moved to the Methodist Church on the junction of the High Street and Barnes Road.

They are planning a series of celebration events over the year, beginning with a Fun Science day on Saturday, March 10 from 10am to 4pm (courtesy of Liverpool University) as part of the British Science week 2018. The University will have their mobile planetarium and will stage a variety of hands on experiments throughout the day at the Barnes Road Scout Hall, and will cover the Science Badge requirements.

The group are also planning a 'look back at Scouts' event for later in the year, and are asking anyone who has photos of them at scouting events over the years to contact Charlie Cavaghan 01695 733947 or email the following: lescav-scouts1@gmail.com

Skelmersdale United bosses want to bring club back to town

Report by **Henry James**

BOSSES at Skelmersdale United claim they are trying to bring the club back to the town - and have set a date of January 2019.

They told supporters at a meeting at Skelmersdale Cricket Club last Thursday that they are in "advanced negotiations" with West Lancashire Borough Council, in regards to the club returning to play in the town.

Officials at Skelmersdale have agreed an extension to the current ground-share at Prescot Cables, with a break clause agreed with the League for when the new stadium is completed.

The club has raised more than £3,000 to keep it going, and now estimates that it needs to collect a further £12,000 to sustain its future.

A club spokesman said: "The club has committed backers for next season but the issue currently is that those funds are not available until the club can officially announce its return to the town. A case of a catch-22, the club has the future sorted but unless something is done in the next two months, there will be no club to have a future."

Early in the meeting, chairman Paul Griffiths, explained that the club had tried to extend the previous lease, quelling "false rumours" that the club had not attempted to. The chairman also explained that discussions had taken place from June 2015 up to last October's eviction.

Attendances for the season so far are down 60% on the previous season.

Funding for next season has been committed by current sponsors and others who will commit when the club's return to the town is finalised.

Skelmersdale United chairman Paul Griffiths

According to the club's website, "there are no plans for the club to self-demote to a lower level. The only way the club will be in a different division is if it is relegated at the end of the season."

Meanwhile, a fan at the meeting talked about a proposal to allow fans without transport to travel to Prescot.

Admission prices have been reduced to £8 Adults, £5 Concessions and £1 for U16s, the unemployed and members of the Armed Forces

Bakery store to move out, but Concourse bosses say they are in 'advanced talks' to bring more retailers to centre

From page 1

Only the best-performing 150 of New Look's 600 stores would not be affected. As many as 70 of its worst performing stores could be closed. New Look is in £1.2bn of debt.

Poundworld, which has 350 stores, is also understood to be struggling and is in discussions with accountants including Deloitte.

The store has been hit by high inflation and low confidence among consumers, and recently posted losses of £17.1m.

A Greggs spokesperson commented: "We can confirm that a decision has been made to close our Skelmersdale shop which will cease trading on March 31."

'We hope to make some exciting announcements soon...'

A spokesperson for New Look said: "We continue to assess a range of options to improve the operational performance of our business – including reviewing our store estate. We will of course update as decisions are made."

A Poundworld spokesman commented: "We are assessing a wide range of options; however, no decision has been taken."

Last week, the Champion reported how MP Rosie Cooper has met with local directors of the NatWest bank to discuss the impending closure of their Skelmersdale branch in the Concourse. The Concourse branch of Nat West was among 197 closures announced by the bank in December last year.

However, there may be some good news on the horizon.

A spokesman for the Concourse told the Champion: "We are in advanced discussions with both national and independent retailers that are seeking to open in Skelmersdale and wish to move to the Concourse Centre. We hope to make some exciting announcements soon.

"We also have plans in place to begin refurbishments within the Centre and these should begin in the coming months."

Seed swap event at library

THE Friends of Skelmersdale Library have teamed up with the West Lancashire Allotment Federation to stage a seed swap event on Saturday (March 10) from 10am to 2pm.

Members are asking for donations from local residents.

The event at the library in Southway will involve the public bringing their surplus seeds and swapping them for tokens which then can be 'traded' for different seeds.

Mary Whitby from FoSL said: "We need advance donations of surplus seeds, bulbs, tubers or pulse to make the event a success."

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106 knives handed in during county constabulary's week-long surrender

Report by **Henry James**

A TOTAL of 106 knives were handed in at police stations across the county during Lancashire Constabulary's week-long surrender last month.

Running from Monday, February 12 to Monday, February 19, the initiative was part of a nationwide campaign aimed at helping to stamp out knife crime by removing potentially lethal weapons from the streets.

Nine police stations in three group of three took part in the surrender, including Skelmersdale.

Figures for the participating groups were as follows: 64 knives handed in across Blackburn, Nelson and Burnley; 27 knives handed in across Chorley, Preston and Skelmersdale; and 29 knives handed in across Blackpool, Fleetwood and Morecambe.

Among the weapons given up were combat knives, kitchen knives and large blades.

Officers will now safely dispose of all of the items that were handed in.

Test purchasing operations were also carried out as part of the crackdown on knife crime with the force using volunteers to check on businesses selling knives or blades.

The majority of premises across the county were compliant with the laws and the few that failed are now working with officers and trading standards to resolve the issues, improve their standards and amend the training that staff receive while working for them.

Some of the knives handed in during the surrender initiative

Although the surrender has now finished, police chiefs stress that people can continue to hand in any knife at any police station.

Chief Inspector Mark Baines said: "I would still like to appeal to those who are in possession of a knife, that carrying a knife doesn't offer them protection, and not only is being in possession of a knife in a public place a criminal offence, but that people are also more likely to be stabbed and seriously injured with their own weapon."

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, added: "I'm pleased that this knife surrender has seen many knives handed in to the police, with our communities safer as a result.

"Knives are deadly weapons and during this surrender we have seen these removed from our streets. Carrying a knife is illegal and the police have been clear that you will be arrested and prosecuted if you are caught with one.

"National drives such as this help to reduce crime and re-offending and make our communities safer. And they can help avoid the tragic impact that knife crime has on people's lives."

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Skelmersdale Councillor calls on West Lancs leader to find 'imaginative ways' to save Glenburn's pitch

Report by **Henry James**

SKELMERSDALE North councillor Neil Furey has written an open letter to the leader of Lancashire County Council, Geoff Driver calling on him to instruct authority's officers to find "imaginative ways" to save the Glenburn 3G pitch.

Recently the Champion reported on how more than 15,000 people had signed a petition to keep the £650,000 facility in the town.

Now Councillor Furey, who is also the current Mayor of West Lancashire, has contacted County Councillor Driver directly.

He wrote: "As you know there remains great anger in the community regarding the future of this facility since the school closed. During the consultation period I campaigned hard against the school closure as I feared the loss of the school would put this £650,000 sports facility at risk.

"I even took the fight to the Secretary of State to ask for Government intervention. Sadly this was to no avail as ultimately the decision to close the school was for Lancashire County Council.

"You have since suggested the 3G pitch could be handed over to a community group or a local school but no council resources would be made available to fund this. I understand that a sum of £300,000 would need to be raised by our community for this to be achieved.

"I can fully understand the anger in the town as this facility is now at risk and I find it abhorrent that council taxpayers' money can be wasted in such a fashion. I also find it abhorrent that local council taxpayers are being asked to pay again for a facility that's already been paid for.

"Skelmersdale has already lost its sports centre and this facility is an important asset for our local community. Therefore I am pleading with you that Lancashire County Council reconsiders its position and officers are instructed to quickly examine imaginative ways to save this facility and save taxpayers' money."

West Lancs Mayor Coun Neil Furey

Meanwhile the manager of the Skem Men-Aces disablility football club, Carl Eaton, has organised a protest against the continued closure of the pitch to be held on Saturday (March 10) between 4 and 5pm at the site of the former Glenburn Sports College.

Youngsters celebrate World Book Day in different way

CROW Orchard primary in Skelmersdale celebrated World Book Day in a different way this year.

Instead of dressing up as book characters the children made their own potato book characters at home.

With it being the first time they had done this they had no idea what the response would be.

Crow Orchard headteacher Ann Hedges said: "We were thrilled and amazed at what the children had managed to create and how many of them had taken part. Some of the characters and the way they were portrayed were simply stunning. "Due to the fact we couldn't judge just one winner per class, we had to award first, second and third places.

"At Crow Orchard we like to give the children opportunities to do things at home with their families and this was obviously a family favourite.

"I am sure as this went so well, it will be a firm favourite to do again next year."

Pupils from Crow Orchard with their potato book creations

Businesses to find out if they have prizes

THREE Skelmersdale-based companies will find out tomorrow (Thursday, March 8) if they have won a prize at this year's Lancashire Business View Red Rose Awards to be held at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

UPS Building and Maintenance of Gratton Place, East Gillibrands has been nominated in three categories - Construction Business Award, Customers Service Award and Property Business Award.

Sustainable Building Services (UK) Ltd., of White Moss Business Park is also nominated in the Construction Business Award and Property Business Award categories.

And Artz for All in Birch Green is in the Not-for-profit Business Award section.

The Red Rose Awards celebrates Lancashire business, commerce and industry, as well as providing a platform to promote success and encourage inter-trading in the county.

Simon Jersey, a previous winner of the Large Business award, said: "The Red Rose Awards play a great role in promoting the fantastic talent and business growth in Lancashire."

This year more than 1,100 people will attend the event to see the cream of Lancashire's business talent honoured. The awards evening, starting at 6pm and running until 1.30am, will take place in the iconic venue's impressive Olympia Exhibition Centre.

Organisations of all sizes from every corner of the county across a wide variety of industries are represented on the list of 150 finalists and 26 winners will be revealed on the night.

Family fundraiser to be held at St Thomas The Martyr church

A FUNDRAISING event will be held at St Thomas The Martyr Church in Up Holland on Friday, March 23 starting at 7pm.
Residents are invited to go along for an evening of song, fashion and much more including stalls selling fancy goods, cakes and vegetables.
They will also be holding an Easter bonnet competition.
Tickets cost £5. For further information call Kath on 01695 721038.

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87% of 'new' secondary pupils in county will attend their preferred school in September

Report by **Henry James**

A TOTAL of 96.9% of pupils in Lancashire moving up to secondary school in September will be attending one of their preferred schools or academies.

Figures for secondary school admissions show that 86.3% will get their first preference, 8% will go to schools which were their second choice, while 2.6% will attend their third preference school. 3.1% have been allocated a place at other schools.

The numbers of those receiving preferred places is likely to rise as appeals are heard and other adjustments are made.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "Waiting to find out which secondary school you've been allocated can be an anxious time, for both parents and children. I have first-hand experience of this, so I know exactly how parents feel at this time.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools.

"I'm pleased to know that 96.9% will be getting one of their three preferences and 86.3% have their first preference. Importantly, every pupil whose application was received on time has now been allocated a secondary school place.

"School places are allocated fairly and objectively, and every application is agreed upon using the criteria which have been agreed for that school.

"Our admissions team do a good job advising parents how to use their preferences wisely and, what to do if they are unhappy with the place they've got. There's still a lot of movement with the allocation of school places between now and September."

This year 95% of parents overall chose to complete their application online.

Parents will receive details about who to contact for advice and information on school admissions and appeals in the offer letter or email they receive.

Appeals are heard locally and those for Lancashire secondary schools will take place during May and June.

For more information, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. Parents can also call on 0300 123 6707.

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with Cheese, Mushrooms, Donner Meat, Red Onion or Pepperoni	£5.80	£6.90
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Donner Chips	£4.70	£6.30
Chicken Kebab	£5.30	£6.30
Kofte Kebab	£4.90	£5.90
Shish Kebab	£4.90	£5.90
Shish & Chicken Kebab	£6.80	£7.80
Mixed Kebab Donner Chicken or Donner Shish	£6.80	£7.80
Mixed Grill Kebab Shish, Chicken, Donner Meat and Chips	£8.80	
Chicken Tikka Tandoori	£5.30	£6.20
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Chicken Fillet Burger	£3.20	£4.20
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2 Pieces Chicken with Chips	£3.60
3 Pieces Chicken with Chips	£4.60
6 Pieces Chicken with 2 Fries	£7.50

EXTRAS

	Reg	Lge
Chips	£1.20	£1.80
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Onion Rings	£2.00	£3.00
Naan Bread, Chips and Extra Cheese		£3.20
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Cone of Chips	£1.00	Fish Cake	£1.00
Cheesy Chips	£2.20	Sausage	*Sml* 70p *Lrg* £1.10
Sausage Dinner	£3.50	Gravy	80p
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Heritage group talk theme will be 'out of this world'!

THE day a meteorite landed in West Lancashire will be the topic at the next monthly meeting of the Burscough Heritage Society.

Local author Russell Parry has researched the story of the Appley Bridge Meteorite and will be sharing his findings with members of the group at The Blue Mallard, Burscough Wharf on Monday, March 12.

Weighing 15kg and said to have had the appearance of burnt iron, the meteorite was found in a farmer's field in 1914.

After its discovery it was confiscated by the police and taken away for investigation.

Samples

Mr Parry will be taking along a piece of the Appley Bridge Meteorite, on loan from the Natural History Museum, to the meeting.

Visitors won't be allowed to handle the meteorite fragment but other samples and a very rare lunar meteorite will be available to feel and to photograph.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend for a £2 donation to the society.

For more information ring Colin Wareing on 07931 356204.

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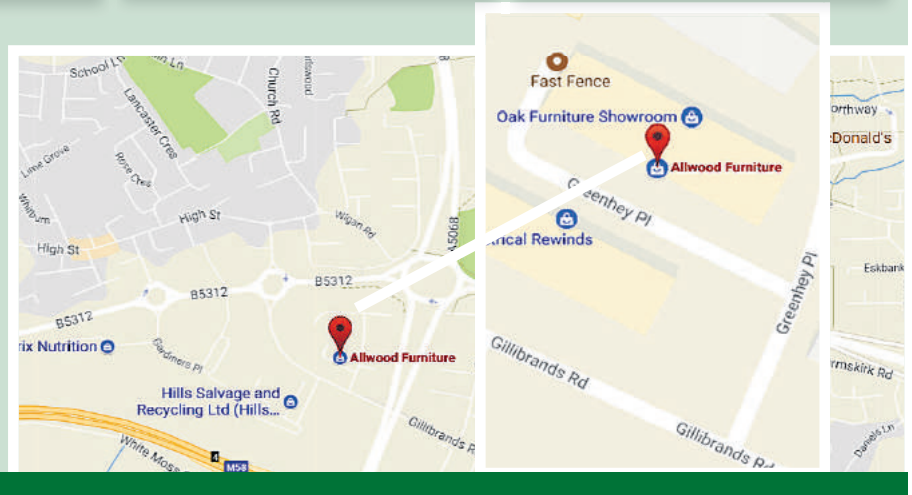

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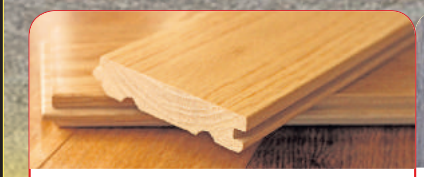

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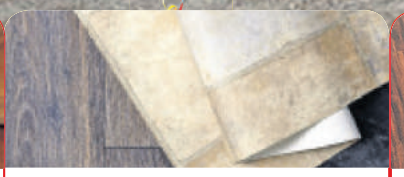

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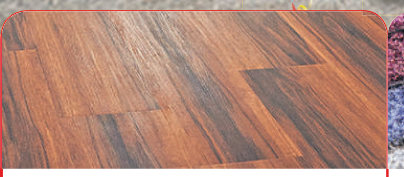

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So, you would like to be a councillor?

Council to stage briefing sessions for would-be candidates and agents ahead of forthcoming local elections

Report by **Kenny Parker**

IF you've ever considered standing for election as a councillor but didn't know how to go about it, now's the chance to find out.

West Lancs Council is organising briefing sessions for people interested in being a candidate or agent in the forthcoming local elections.

On Thursday, May 3 voters in the borough will be going to the polls to elect councillors for their area.

The borough council and six local parish councils are holding elections and new candidates are able to stand in them if they meet the eligibility criteria.

There will be 18 seats contested in this year's borough council elections, one in each of the 18 wards, and 52 seats across the parishes that are up for election.

Kim Webber, returning officer for the upcoming local elections in West Lancashire

Councillors have three main roles:

- **To represent the people in their local area and listen to their views.**
- **To make decisions about how the council is run, what services should be provided, and how money is spent.**
- **To provide community leadership so that different organisations all work together to make their area a better place.**

The briefings for interested persons will be held at 2pm and 5.45pm on Monday, March 19 in the Council Chamber at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Kim Webber, Returning Officer for the elections said: "The briefings will cover what you need to know about the election process. There will also be the opportunity to speak informally to Electoral Officers afterwards. People who are interested in standing are invited to come along to one of the briefings.

Responsible

"There are no set qualifications or experience required to be a councillor. For example, skills gained through raising a family, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups are just as valuable as skills gained in employment or training.

"The role is a responsible position which allows you to make a real difference to the area you represent."

To register your interest in attending the briefing or to find out more, contact the Elections Team on 01695 585013 or by email at elections.office@westlancs.gov.uk.

In addition, the council's website provides details on the election for both voters and prospective candidates at www.westlancs.gov.uk/elections.

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County councillor's bid to halt expenses 'gravy train' defeated

...but independent vows "I'll be back!"

Report by **Henry James**

AN independent member of Lancashire County Council says fellow councillors should no longer be able to claim travel expenses and meal allowances on top of their basic allowance.

Councillor Paul Greenall, who represents West Lancashire East on the county council, called for the expenses to be scrapped at a full meeting of the authority.

County councillors receive a basic allowance of £10,466 and on top of that can claim 45p per mile for travel to and from County Hall and meal allowances once they arrive.

If they are at County Hall for less than four hours they can claim a £6.62 meal allowance, rising to £13.15 if there for between four and eight hours.

Cllr. Greenall also tried to stop the practice of political group whips and secretaries receiving additional allowances and to reduce the number of councillors receiving 'special responsibility allowances' (SRA).

A Freedom of Information request showed 33 out of 84 councillors (39%) receive additional SRA payments. Cllr. Greenall said this compared to Parliament where, since 1979, the figure has never been above 22%.

County Councillor Paul Greenall

He said: "County Hall is a gravy train for councillors who want taxpayers to give them more than their generous £10,466 basic allowance. Given that most taxpayers cannot claim for travel and meals when they go to work, why should they fund these benefits for councillors?

"Also, why should taxpayers fund political roles? Shouldn't these positions be funded by the political parties rather than taxpayers?

"And why should taxpayers' money be used to fund levels of patronage way above those in Parliament?"

Councillor Greenall's proposals, which he said would save taxpayers thousands, were rejected by Conservative and Labour members but he vowed not to let the matter rest. He said: "Don't worry, I'll be back, next time this item is on the agenda".

Leader of the council, County Councillor Geoff Driver, responded: "Councillor Greenall demonstrates yet again that he simply doesn't understand that the system of councillors' allowances is a national scheme and is not determined by Lancashire County Council. He seems determined to seek publicity by making cheap jibes at hard-working county councillors of all political persuasions.

"Instead, he should reflect on the fact that in the county council elections in May last year, he deliberately misled the electors of West Lancashire East by standing and being elected as a Conservative only to declare himself as an 'independent' a little over a month after the election. If he had an ounce of integrity, he would resign his seat thus causing a by-election so that the electorate could decide if they really do want to be represented by an 'independent'."

The Labour group on Lancashire County Council has been contacted for comment.

Pub reopens after £230,000 makeover

THE Queens Head pub in Moor Street, Ormskirk has reopened following a major refurbishment costing £230,000.

The town centre pub's makeover includes a new bar, redecoration throughout, a new layout, new furniture and new televisions for sports fans to watch the latest sporting events as they happen.

There is also a new beer garden.

The pub was shut for seven weeks while the interior and exterior were totally overhauled and reopened its doors again on Friday, March 2.

The Queens Head is leased by North West pub company Funky Owl Ltd. from Greene King Pub Partners. Both companies have invested in the refurbishment.

A spokesperson for Funky Owl Ltd., said: "The pub is much more open now and the new feel is great."

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Homes and revamp plans to cost £13m and benefit hundreds of residents

Councillor Jenny Forshaw

WEST Lancs Council has announced plans for a £13 million housing investment to create new homes and improve hundreds of others.

Work has started on building 27 new homes on the former Westec House site, close to the council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk.

This will see 18 houses built to be sold on the open market.

Another two-bedroom terraced house will be available for shared ownership and the other eight homes will be one-bedroom apartments to be retained by the council and rented on an affordable basis.

Meanwhile in Skelmersdale work is well underway on the Beechtrees Revival Scheme. The council has demolished nine blocks of flats and four houses and the construction of 36 two-bedroom homes is expected to start in April.

The council says the Revival Scheme will "significantly improve the appearance of this part of Digmoor."

The authority is also looking at opportunities to build even more new homes in the future through its proposed development company.

Councillor Jennifer Forshaw, the council's portfolio holder for Housing and Landlord Services, said: "The council is very excited about the projects to build new homes in Ormskirk and in Skelmersdale, The Beech trees scheme will really help enhance this part of Digmoor.

"Revitalising our estates and improving homes are key priorities in the Council Plan, and the council is working hard to continue investing substantial amounts in its council homes to help improve the lives of tenants."

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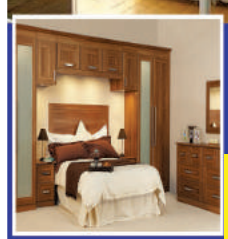

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Information evening for potential adopters

LANCASHIRE County Council is staging another information evening for anyone thinking about starting or growing their family through adoption on Tuesday, March 13 at County Hall, Preston from 6 to 7.30pm.

Following a short presentation, members of the county council's adoption team, including social workers, will be available to answer questions, talk people through the process and offer confidential advice.

County Councillor Susie Charles, the council's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We need people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family. You must be over 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, but whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status, we want to hear from you.

"What matter to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond."

Adoptive parents are needed for children from young babies up to eight years of age. People willing to keep families together by adopting siblings are particularly welcomed. Brothers and sisters are among the children who wait longest to be adopted, as there are not enough people coming forward who are able to give them a safe, permanent and loving family.

Among the 100 Lancashire children currently ready to be adopted, there are 13 two-sibling groups and five three-sibling groups.

Susie Charles added: "I'm hoping that we can encourage people to at least think about adopting two or more children. We keep brothers and sisters together whenever we can.

"For children who cannot be brought up by their own parents, those sibling relationships take on extra importance. In the midst of the trauma and losses these children experience, being placed with a brother or sister can be an important source of comfort and support, and give them the opportunity to grow up together.

The county council is particularly keen to recruit adopters for siblings.
Photograph posed by models.

"However, we know that adopting siblings might not be for everyone, and we still need adopters to come forward to look after children of all different ages and circumstances."

Adoptive parents are also needed to come forward for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly for the following groups: • children aged over four, of either gender; • children with special needs, disabilities or unpredictable medical issues; • boys of all ages; • mixed-heritage children of all ages.

Further details about the information evening and adoption in general are available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

There's no need to book for the adoption information evening, just turn up.

Free parking is available on the Arthur Street car park next to County Hall and the Pitt Street entrance is accessible for disabled people.

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Council to make changes to garden waste service

WEST Lancs Council has announced changes to its garden waste collection service.

Existing customers who sign up and pay for the garden waste service this year will receive a free brown bin if they subscribe before June 4. If you purchased extra garden waste bins last year you will receive the equivalent number of brown bins free of charge.

Councillor Kevin Wilkie

If you subscribe after June 4 you will have to pay for the bins at a cost of £25 each. Residents who sign up for the first time this year will also need to purchase a new brown bin.

The existing green bins will then be used by all residents to recycle cardboard and paper, replacing the current blue bag system. The council says this will make the system easier for residents and help the environment as materials will be recycled in larger quantities, as well as keeping our streets cleaner and helping to make collection rounds more efficient.

Residents who are not currently signed up for the garden waste collection services and don't have a green bin will receive one for cardboard and paper recycling, free of charge if they request one before June 4.

Residents who signed up to the garden waste collection service last year can enjoy the benefits of garden waste collections until June 3. To continue receiving the service after this date, residents must sign up for a further 12 months and you can do this online from Monday, March 12 by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/gardenwaste. Residents will not be able to subscribe by phone until Wednesday, May 2 To avoid any interruption to the service you must sign up before Friday, May 18.

More information on the green bin switch will be provided at a later date.

The cost of the garden waste collection service is also being fixed at £30 per year for one brown bin to be emptied. You can have additional brown bins emptied at a cost of £25 each.

The £30 charge covers the 12 months from June 4 this year to June 3, 2019. If you sign up part way through the year, the cost is the same and no concessions are available.

'Valuable'

Councillor Kevin Wilkie, the council's portfolio holder for Street Scene Services, said: "The overall response from residents to the introduction of the chargeable garden waste collection service last year was very positive with around 50% of households signing up to this valuable service.

"The scheme for this year will be launched on March 12 and we are encouraging residents to sign up quickly and easily online. The introduction of a new brown bin to collect garden waste and the use of the green bin for paper and cardboard are steps to improving our recycling services for the future."

Residents requiring additional bins to those purchased last year can buy them from the council at a cost of £25 each. You can buy brown bins online at the same time when you sign up and pay for the collection service.

A leaflet will be included inside this year's Council Tax information delivered to every household in the borough giving details about how to sign up and pay, and further information on the service. Information is also available on the Council website www.westlancs.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Residents who don't use the service will still be able to dispose of garden waste at the household waste recycling centres, or compost it.

Borough stages flag-flying ceremony to mark Commonwealth Day

ARMED forces veterans and local school children will join West Lancs Council to raise the Commonwealth Flag at a special ceremony on Monday, March 12 to mark Commonwealth Day 2018.

Celebrations will begin around 9.40am when the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney and other civic dignitaries will be joined by veterans and children from Ormskirk CE Primary School, outside the council offices at Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Messages from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations will be read out and the Deputy Mayor will also address those present. A specially-written Commonwealth Affirmation will be read before the flag is raised.

Councillor Delaney said: "I am really proud that West Lancashire will be joining

The Commonwealth Flag

people across the world in raising the Commonwealth Flag, particularly with the 2018 Commonwealth Games due to take place in Australia in April."

This year's Commonwealth Flag raising event builds on successful events since 2014 and will see hundreds of other Commonwealth Flags raised in locations throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and Commonwealth countries.

After the flag is raised everyone will be invited to the Mayor's Room to witness A Single Commemorative Act marking the centenary of the First World War.

A two-minute silence will be held and schoolchildren will read First World War nursery rhymes.

Candles will then be lit as a reminder to all who see them, not only of the sacrifices made during the past 100 years through conflicts in which this country has been involved, but also as a symbol of hope that we will work towards understanding between peoples.

CCG meeting open to public

MEMBERS of the public are invited to attend the next meeting of the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group Primary Care Committee on Tuesday, March 13 from 1.30 to 3pm.

This will be held in the boardroom of the CCG offices in Hilldale on the Ormskirk Hospital site.

For details of how to find the office, you can ring the CCG on 01695 588 000.

The agenda is available on the group's website at www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk a week before.

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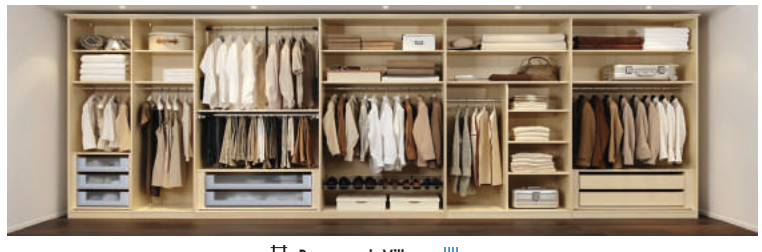

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Parked cars on narrow bus routes are a nuisance and a danger

TRAVELLING through Rufford on a regular basis you can't help but notice the number of parked cars causing a nuisance.

Most of the houses on Brick Kiln Lane from the chapel to Tootle Lane have drives.

Turn onto Cousins Lane, Albert Road, Prescott Avenue and again most properties have drives.

These are narrow roads that serve as a bus route, a problem made worse during cricket season and weekends with cars just being abandoned anywhere.

Turning out onto Cousins Lane is dangerous, you cannot see oncoming vehicles which are usually speeding.

At the junction with Holmeswood Road the view left from Cousins Lane is obscured by the homeowners constantly parking on the grass verge.

The traffic comes so fast, not obeying the 30mph limit, so you have no time to avoid being in a collision.

Schoolchildren and cyclists use these roads, so please think where you park.

KS, by email, details supplied

Residents need to know what's happening with this recycling charade

MANY people are uncertain about what goes where as far as various plastics and papers are concerned.

In West Lancashire for recyclables we have a wheelie bin for glass, cans and selected plastics (mainly polyethylene and polyester bottles), a plastic box for paper/cardboard other than newspapers, and a heavy-duty blue plastic bag for newspapers.

I've just watched the collection this morning. The operatives emptied the contents of the box and bag into the wheelie bin and proceeded to wheel this to the truck.

Is there a process that allows all of these items to be re-separated for recycling? I don't think so.

Maybe the austerity cuts means that we can't afford to run that part of the system that processes all the various streams for recycling, and all that is happening is incineration or landfilling.

But why continue with the charade? Homeowners should know what's happening so that we can consider these things when we next vote.

Peter Langley, by email

Now is the time for a community energy plan in West Lancs

WITHIN 20 years electricity use will change dramatically. By then nearly all new cars will be electric (and self-driving).

Energy security will be a global issue (we buy most of ours from abroad). Renewable energy will become the nation's greatest resource.

It's time to make a West Lancs Community Energy Plan with everyone on board.

Solar on every house, office, factory and public building. Wind, hydro, geothermal and biomass wherever possible. Sources that don't produce greenhouse gases which add to global warming.

Renewable energy is also becoming the cheapest source.

Forget nuclear, forget fracking, forget coal mines and oil fields and yearly price rises. Think local renewable energy. Start today, WLDC.

Bryan Irving, UK Transition Towns Network, Ledburn, Skelmersdale

PICTURE of the week

Nicky Garforth leads the older adult fitness class in a seated aerobics taster session at last Saturday's family fun and open day at Maghull Health Studios. Picture by Martyn Snape

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Jim should set up his own crowdfunding platform to pay for new royal yacht

I AM responding to Jim Sharpe's column One Man and His Dog (Champion, February 14).

Rather than trying to get funding from the National Lottery to build a new Royal Yacht Britannia, Jim could raise the money by co-ordinating his own crowdfunding platform.

That way, he and other like-minded patriots could pay for the Queen's new pleasure craft entirely from their own resources.

As Jim suggests, the new vessel could be a floating advertisement of our shipbuilding skills as we try to negotiate trade deals with the rest of the world once we leave the EU.

My crowdfunding idea is surely the perfect solution - it avoids any negativity from those who think that public money might be better spent on the public for the benefit of the public.

It also gives Jim Sharpe (and others sharing his view) more opportunity to pretend that once we leave the EU a whole new world of trade opens up that was previously unavailable and which we would have had the benefit of but for those meddling EU bureaucrats!

British ship and boat builders have been selling their vessels and engineering expertise all over the world prior to and irrespective of the EU referendum with varying degrees of success and I am sure they will continue to do so as best they can after we leave the EU.

Alex McCann, Aughton

Concourse is leaking shops!

WELL, another shop going from the Concourse, i.e. Greggs, and there are rumours that New Look is going also. Shake That closed mid-February.

When it rains the Concourse has got more leeks (sic) than a Welsh greengrocer.

It needs a new roof but all the owners are are doing is little jobs like painting the rails in the bus stop so people will think they are updating the Concourse.

The escalator was out of order for the whole of February. If the owners are not interested in fixing all the problems then they should consider selling it to someone who will.

K. Wilkinson, by email

EU-biased group fails to mention Brexit good news

IN reply to Maurice George (Letters, February 21) this pro-EU group led by Gina Miller, 'Best for Britain', should be renamed 'Worst for Britain.'

Miller is so pro-EU how on Earth can people see a balanced argument by this woman who is only looking after her own interests, like all the pro-EU protagonists?

She conveniently fails to mention all the good news about Brexit. 1. Stock markets up and rising. 2. Record levels of employment. 3. Countries queuing up to do business with us. 4. Massive levels of new investment in Britain from large corporations.

I could go on and on about all the positives about Brexit.

Gina Miller and her "open mind"? I think not!

Wake up and smell the coffee and do not listen to this biased EU closed-mind woman.

Frank Baybutt, Burscough

Drivers need to read the Highway Code on mini roundabouts

I JUST want to say that after having read the Highway Code it appears that no-one, not even police officers, know what they are meant to do at a mini roundabout with a give way sign.

The correct practice is for the traffic approaching the give way sign to yield to the main flow of traffic, the traffic approaching from the opposite direction should not yield to them.

Also the Highway Code specifies the following Rule 172: 'The approach to a junction may have a 'give way' sign or a triangle marked on the road. You MUST give way to traffic on the main road when emerging from a junction with broken white lines across the road'.

Dave Elliott, Blakehall, Skelmersdale

Why not just reopen the Ormskirk A&E?

I REFER to a recent article regarding the expansion of Southport Hospital's A&E department which is going to cost in excess of one million pounds.

Surely an easier and less expensive option is to reopen Ormskirk's A&E?

If this department had not closed maybe Southport would not need to expand.

B. A., Ormskirk, details supplied

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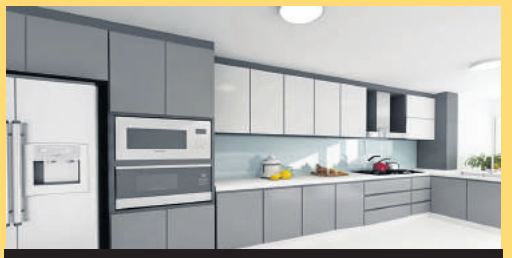

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Scouts' helping hand for Mayor's Charity collection

MEMBERS of a local Scout group gave up a day of their half-term holidays to lend a helping hand when the Mayor's Charity Committee held a collection at Morrisons supermarket in Ormskirk.

The collection at the store in Park Road raised a grand total of £192.24 for this year's Mayor of West Lancashire Charity Appeal.

And it could be considered a case of 'charity beginning at home' for the members of the 42nd Ormskirk (Skelmersdale St Paul's) Scouts who helped out as the group is one of three local causes set to benefit from the appeal, along with the Evermoor Hub and The Sewing Rooms in Skelmersdale!

The mayor, Councillor Neil Furey, said: " I am very grateful to the staff at Morrisons store for kindly allowing this collection to take place and to Morrisons customers for their kind and very generous donations."

Karen Watson and Sammie from the Scouts group pictured at the Mayor's Charity collection at Morrisons in Ormskirk

Volunteer 'fugitives' wanted for TV show

IF you fancy being a TV 'fugitive' with the chance of sharing a £100,000 prize the makers of Channel 4 reality show *Hunted* want to hear from you.

Producers are currently seeking volunteers for a new series of the programme which sees the fugitives attempt to evade capture by a team of expert trackers.

Applications are invited from both men and women aged 18 or over. To apply, visit the website www.hunted-applications.com - but hurry, the closing date is Monday, March 12.

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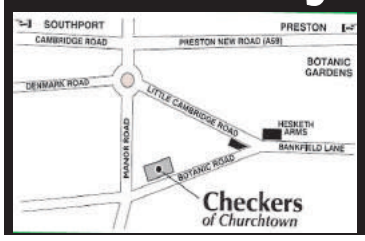

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- Ergonomic handle for stable grip and effortless pour action
- The kettle's effortless 'tilt and pour' action directs hot water to the fixed position of the cup

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- Max User Weight: 21 stone

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- Extra support and comfort in cars and homes

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- Available in 17" and 20"
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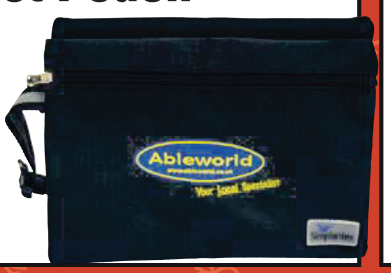

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- Includes a tray, basket and walking stick holder

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TWO FREE SCATTER CUSHIONS

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County Cllr Susie Charles

Campaign to get youngsters reading

LANCASHIRE County Council has launched a campaign to promote reading in the county's schools.

The We Are Reading campaign will run until World Book Day 2019 and encourages schools to sign a pledge urging pupils to read.

By taking part in the campaign schools will commit to becoming a reading school, seek out every opportunity to improve standards in reading at school, encourage reading for pleasure, enable children to read in-depth in a wide range of subjects, deepening their knowledge and understanding across the curriculum and work with other schools, local libraries and other partners to promote reading as a lifelong skill. County Councillor Susie Charles, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, said: "Reading is one of life's greatest pleasures, but also plays a huge role in broadening our horizons and sharpening our imaginations, especially as children.

"I firmly support this campaign. Anything we can do to inspire children to read should be encouraged."

Throughout the year, schools will be encouraged to share all their reading activities through a half-termly newsletter and also on a Facebook page.

Schools can sign up to the campaign by emailing weareareading@lancashire.gov.uk

bed factory direct.co.uk

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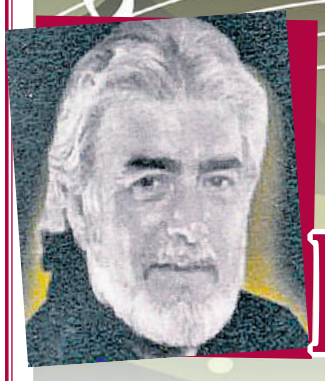

Peter White's
Superb Tribute to
Kenny Rodgers

Friday 13th July 2018

Join us in the Great Hall, enjoy a three course menu and coffee, followed by tribute act then DJ.

Only £30 per person
or £125 per couple to include
Entertainment, Dinner, Overnight Accommodation
in a Double room and full English breakfast

Jon Fisher
as
Gary Barlow

Friday 1st June 2018

Join us in the Great Hall to enjoy a sumptuous three course menu including coffee, followed by tribute act then DJ.

Only £30 per person
or £125 per couple to include
Entertainment, Dinner, Overnight Accommodation
in a standard room and full English breakfast

Prescott Road, Pimbo, Nr. Wigan WN8 9QD (5 mins from Junction 5)
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Telephone 01695 567260

ADVERTISING FEATURE

From Little Acorns

Your guide to selecting Early Education and Child Care providers

One of the biggest issues facing our children today is the lack of outdoor play and physical exercise - children nowadays have limited opportunity to get outside and have fun in the real world!

Some of the statistics are frightening. A report by the National Trust said that the majority of children play outside less than one hour a day. That's almost a third of the time we spent outdoors 30 years ago when we were children!

This lack of outdoor activity means children concentrate less, become more unruly, are less able to mix and socialise, are less imaginative and then there's the rise in obesity.

For many, the rise in 'screen time' is the biggest concern.

Researchers are now looking at the long term effect of too much television, time spent on mobile devices and playing computer games.

They talk of the 're-wiring of the mind' and danger to young brains. Rather than using their senses to build dens, interact, build social skills and work in teams, while exploring and learning, children are becoming sponges to a one-way traffic of entertainment.

So how can we do our best to foster an attitude of discovery, creativity and good, old fashioned outdoor play from an early age?

Anyone who has taken their child camping will appreciate that things haven't changed that much.

Children love playing outdoors, but we need to make sure it happens. One increasingly popular idea is Forest School. In Scandinavia the motto is simple: There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothes.

Although it may be colder than it is in our country, the Scandinavians have never let that get in the way.

They cycle in the snow, they play outside in the rain, they camp in the cold, they build campfires no matter what the season.

The idea of Forest School began in the 1950s in Sweden, but it is now thankfully being appreciated in the UK. It focuses on the natural world, exploring and observing our environment, working in teams to move logs, make dens and take managed risks.

Rather than mollycoddling, this is about taking responsibility, building confidence, investigating our limits, appreciating life and enjoying the outdoors.

Armed with wellies, waterproofs and snacks, children can spend two or three hours in the woods, they hang hammocks, they create imaginary worlds, they cook s'mores, they do treasure hunts, they read books and make up stories in circles.

And they always, always love it. >

THIS CHAMPION FEATURE IS SPONSORED BY

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

Outstanding results. Exceptional individuals.
Highest possible grade of 'Excellent' awarded in all areas by ISI
- ISI Inspection 2017 -

Open Morning
Wednesday 25th April
Visit us and find out why it pays to pay for primary!

0151 924 6302 www.stmarys.ac/prep
The independent Catholic school for boys and girls of all faiths aged 0-18

BLOSSOM NURSERY

We love and grow in Christ

We live and learn in partnership

We build and share together

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

We work as a team with children and families to deliver high quality provision that directly addresses the needs of each child.

We aim for the children to feel happy, secure, valued and loved.

We consider every little person to be unique, beautiful, fascinating and creative, with a huge amount to offer to the world

Children learn in a safe, nurturing and positive environment guided by experienced and caring staff

OFSTED: **Rated Good**

We Offer:

- ✓ A two year old room and a three/four year old room, both safe, nurturing environments outdoors and indoors.
- ✓ Free 15 hour provision for all 3 & 4 year olds
- ✓ Free 30 hours provision for eligible 3 & 4 year olds
- ✓ Free 15 hour provision for eligible 2 year olds
- ✓ Flexible and top-up sessions at very competitive prices
- ✓ Child-centered approaches to learning and development
- ✓ A caring, approachable staff team
- ✓ A creative, fun approach to learning, with themed weeks and special regular events
- ✓ A designated key worker to manage each child's learning, nurture their development and liaise
- ✓ Free breakfast club for 3 year olds upwards from 7:45 - 8:45am
- ✓ Smooth transition into the Reception class and later into Key Stage 1

Why Choose a School Nursery?

School nurseries such as ours ensure that children are learning ready when they enter Reception Class. They also become part of the school setting in which they will spend their years in primary education.

Morning Sessions:
8.45am to 11.45am
Afternoon Session
12:30pm to 3:30pm
Extra Session:
£10.00 per session

Please call the school office on:
01695 558560
to arrange a drop in to view our excellent environment and meet our friendly staff

For more information contact:
Call: 01695 558560
Email: bursar@sfoa.lancs.sch.uk
or visit our website:
www.sfoa.lancs.sch.uk
Blakehall, Digmoor, Skelmersdale WN8 9AZ

Christian values of love, care, respect and forgiveness are embedded within our Mission Statement and reflected in the excellent practice and example of all adults working in our EYFS

PLACES AVAILABLE
IN OUR OUTSTANDING NURSERY

Purpose built Nursery for 0-5 years
- FREE* places for over 2's
- Places also available for babies and toddlers
- Open 50 weeks of the year
- Opening hours 8am-6pm
- Healthy Menu
- Outdoor covered play area
- Based in Skelmersdale
- Community nursery open to all.

Call: 01695 52559/52300
email: littlelearners@westlancs.ac.uk
www.westlancs.ac.uk

Little Learners,
West Lancashire College,
College Way,
Skelmersdale WN8 6LH.

30 hrs FREE* childcare per week
for three and four year olds

** Eligible working parents – terms and conditions apply*

little learners

Ofsted Outstanding

Nurturing • Welcoming • Enriching • High Quality Care & Education

Cobbs Brow

Outstanding Early Years Provider: Ofsted June 2015

COBBS BROW PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

Breakfast Club
7.50am to 8.55am

Tiny Acorns
2-3yr olds Nursery
Teacher Led Provision
A.M. session 8.50am to 11.50am
P.M. session 12.20pm to 3.20pm

Little Acorns 3-4yr olds
Teacher Led Provision
A.M Session 8.50am to 11.50am
P.M Session 12.20pm to 3.20pm
We offer 30 hours **FREE** childcare for eligible children and **FREE** funded and fee paying places for 2 and 3 year olds

Afterschool Club
3.10pm - closes at 6pm

Cobbs Brow School
Manfield Ashurst, Skelmersdale WN8 6SU
Telephone: 01695 720 632 Website: www.cobbsbrowschool.co.uk

St Thomas the Martyr C E Primary School Nursery

GROWING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

FREE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS FOR ALL 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS
Plus 30 Hours Provision

WE OFFER:
- Highly qualified teaching staff and well resourced facilities
- Close links with our Reception class
- An open door policy working closely with parents and carers
- Breakfast Club from 7.45am
- After School Club to 5.30pm
- Paid all day provision for 3 and 4 year olds also available

Two year old provision 9-12 Mon to Fri
... free and paid places available

OFSTED SAID: "Teaching in the Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding. Excellent planning, exciting topics that interest the children and exemplary records which are shared regularly with parents extend children's reading, writing and mathematical skills very well."

Step Quality

TAKE A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL
CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

St Thomas the Martyr C E Primary School
Highgate Road, Up Holland, Lancashire WN8 0HX
Tel: 01695 622970 • www.stthomasthemartyr.org

What type of services

After school and breakfast clubs

These can be provided by schools or private nurseries and provide care for your child before or after school, or both. Learning is structured and children are always provided with healthy snacks or meals.

Playgroups

Playgroups offer care for your child several times a week usually, for a morning or an afternoon, and work in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

They can help your child to interact and start learning at an age where they are too young to go to school.

Private day nurseries

These are open from Monday to Friday and can look after your child between the hours of 7.30am – 6.00pm.

They are available for children aged 3 months to five years of age and although they are private, there are several Government schemes to help you meet the cost if you feel you are struggling. All are means tested and funding could be one call away.

These nurseries are OFSTED inspected and follow the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage structure of learning. >

Little Digmoor Primary School

NOW OFFERING
FREE ALL DAY
NURSERY PROVISION FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS
8:50am - 3:15pm | 5 days a week

In our fully equipped Foundation Stage Unit run by an experienced Early Years TEACHER.
Our recent OFSTED report stated that: *"In the Early Years Foundation Stage, knowledgeable and well-planned teaching provides children with a good range of indoor and outdoor activities that stimulate children's learning and gets them off to a good start to their time in school. The majority of pupils are now making rapid progress in reading, writing and mathematics."*

Parents say
"I think the school is doing a fantastic job"
"My child is happy and has made loads of progress since they have been in the school"

And most importantly pupils say:
"I like school because I have lots of friends to play with"
"I love the sand pit"
Please come and see us in action.

Contact us for more information or to arrange a visit: 01695 724539
www.littledigmoor.lancs.sch.uk | Headteacher: Mr Dave Paton

are available?

Holiday Play schemes

Children have a lot more time off school than parents have off work and so for those times holiday play schemes can come in very handy.

They offer childcare only in school holidays and can help the child develop and learn while making sure they are safe and well cared for.

Moorgate Nursery School and Munchkins Childcare

Free places for 2 and 3 year olds for 2018/19!
Outstanding Nursery School - Ofsted 2016.
Full wrap around childcare and holiday club.
Call: 01695 573470 or visit us now!
Moorgate Nursery School and Munchkins Childcare, Moorgate, Ormskirk, L39 4RY

Headteacher: Mrs Liz Ormerod
Telephone: 01695 721881
Eskdale. Tanhouse. Skelmersdale. Lancashire. WN8 6ED
E-mail: head@delphside.lancs.sch.uk
www.delphside.lancs.sch.uk

"Exceptional Nursery"!
7:45am to 5:30pm

Dynamic
Muddy Mondays!
Stay and Play
Assemblies
Shows
PE Sessions
Puddle Ducks Swimming

Part of a nurturing Primary School ☺

Enjoy. Embrace. Evolve
We make the difference

Discovery Vine Childcare

Lordsgate Township
Pre-School Nursery
Lordsgate Drive, Burscough L40 7RS

Our highly qualified, knowledgeable Early Years Practitioners offer all year Full Time or Sessional Care and Education for children aged 2+.

We accept the Early Years Free Entitlement Grant offering up to 30 free hours a week.

We have excellent indoor and outdoor facilities and now have Forest School Status.

To book a visit or for more information call:
01704 897270
www.discoveryvine.co.uk

LATHOM PARK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hall Lane, Lathom, Nr Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 5UG
01704 892375

EARLY YEARS PROVISION
Places available for 3 and 4 year olds
30 hours FREE childs places for qualifying families

Our Nursery class is a secure environment which allows each child to thrive according to their strengths and work with children of similar ability regardless of age.
We provide a varied curriculum and with small class sizes and low teacher pupil ratio, understand our children's needs and that of their families.
We understand the children's interests, aiming to keep them involved and ensuring they are learning through their play.

For a tour of the school please speak to our bursar:
bursar@lathompark.lancs.sch.uk

Richard Durnings Endowed Primary School Nursery

30 hours free early education and childcare available with our wonderful, caring, outstanding environment

WHAT WE CAN OFFER:
- High staff ratio with excellent Early Years Teacher and Teaching Assistant
- Excellent facilities available in our Early Years Classroom and Outdoor Play Area, Willow Classroom, Field and Outdoor Play Equipment
- Varied, fun filled learning opportunities available each session

We are top of the league tables for all primary in Lancashire 2017

For further info please contact
MRS HODGSON - HEAD TEACHER
Email head@richarddurnings.lancs.sch.uk
or call 01257 462968
Chorley Rd, Ormskirk L40 3SL

St Anne's
Pre-School Group

From September 2018 we will be offering child care from 7.45am to 6pm.

We offer:

- ✔ Up to 30 hours free childcare a week with the Early Years Free Entitlement Grant for qualifying families, term time only.
- ✔ Highly qualified and experienced Early Years practitioners.
- ✔ Excellent indoor and outdoor areas, with a newly refurbished outdoor area.
- ✔ Rated 'Good' by Ofsted in April 2016.

Our recent Ofsted inspection report stated:

'Effective systems are in place to monitor and review the progress of all children. This enables any gaps in children's development to be quickly identified and addressed, helping all children to make good progress in their learning'

Parents say:

'My son has been to several nurseries and has never received the time and attention on him that he gets at pre-school'.

'All aspects are good and my child would live there instead of home if he could'.

'Staff are very welcoming and you can tell how much the children genuinely love being with them'.

Town End, Aughton Street, Ormskirk L39 3LQ
For further information please call: ***01695 574697***

Outstanding Provider
Moorside CP Academy Nursery

2 - 4 Year Olds
Back Lane, Skelmersdale WN8 9EA

Award Winning Provision

Open 7.30am – 5.15pm

FREE PLACES AVAILABLE for 15 hours & 30 hours
**Subject to eligibility*

Parents are welcome to book an appointment to view our nursery provision at any time

FULLY EQUIPPED NEW EXTENDED NURSERY PROVISION
• Sensory Room • Sensory Gardens • Library
• ICT Suite • Outdoor Gym
Delicious meals provided inhouse by experienced staff

"***OFSTED 2014 quote***

Strong leadership and high quality teaching ensure children make excellent progress across all areas of their learning and development in this bright and happy nursery"

Come and see us!
VISITS ARRANGED BY TELEPHONING
01695 722931
www.moorside-academy.co.uk

Questions to ask childcare providers

DirectGov recommends you ask the following questions to ask childcare providers:

- Safety – what happens in an emergency?
- Are the premises secure (can strangers get in)?
- What training and experience do the carers have?
- How does the provider report safety incidents to parents?
- Do the carers know first aid?
- What is the staff 's view on discipline?
- What activities are on offer?
- What happens if you are late picking up your child?
- What food is provided and is it healthy?
- Who can you talk to about your child's progress?
- Be sure to know what happens if your child becomes ill?

Benefits for your child ...

- High quality childcare and early education give your child a head start in primary school, as research shows that it improves their educational, emotional and social development.
- Children with experience of high quality childcare and early education do better in Key Stage 1 and Mathematics at age 7.
- Children who attend a good quality setting are more likely to be more independent, better able to concentrate and more sociable at the start of primary school. The benefits of part-time attendance are those of full-time attendance.

Parbold Douglas
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Parbold Douglas Nursery Ltd

Ofsted outstanding in personal development, behaviour and welfare. Caring & nurturing environment for children aged 2 years +

Funded 30 hours extended places offered.

At Parbold Douglas Nursery we pride ourselves on providing the best possible start for all children within our care. We believe that children are at their most receptive during the first five years of life and it is our duty to support them on their learning journey.

"Love, Understand and Nurturing"

Please come and visit!

Open 51 weeks of the year
Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm

Lancaster Lane, Parbold, Lancashire WN8 7HS
01257 462199 www.pda.lancs.sch.uk

Which childcare is best for you?

With so many parents both working full time these days the issue of childcare is a major one.

There are several options available but choosing the right one for your family can sometimes be a difficult task. Before you make a decision ...

- Give yourself plenty of time to choose. Holiday play schemes and other seasonal childcare service can booked up well in advance.
- Make appointments to visit two or three providers to compare what's on offer. This will allow you to look at the services available and chat to the staff.
- Always consider your child in your decision, even if they are far too young to make a choice themselves. Where do you think they would prefer?
- Ask other parents for their suggestions and recommendations.
- Check opening times, holiday dates and, most importantly, costs.

St John's Catholic Primary School,
Chapel Lane, Burscough, L40 7RA

Sunbeams Nursery

at St John's Catholic Primary School

"Children are confident individuals who thoroughly enjoy every minute of their day."

(Ofsted Jan 2018)

01704 893523

Call to book an appointment and have a look around.

EVERYONE WELCOME

From 3 years. Excellent Standards.
Competitive pricing and free government funding accepted.
Sessions 9.00am—12.00pm and 12.00pm—3.00pm.
Breakfast Club from 7.45am and After School Club until 5.30pm.
Hot Dinners available.

To find out about forthcoming features, please call 01704 392392

NURSERY

at Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School

Within a safe and stimulating environment, we build secure and trusting relationships which allow our children to flourish.

We take the time to get to know children as individuals, ensuring that each child's experience is tailored to their needs and fascinations.

30 Hours FREE Child places for qualifying families

Free nursery places for 3 years olds

To arrange a tour of our school and meet our Headteacher please contact us on:

T: 0151 526 0614

E: bursar@haskayne.lancs.sch.uk

YOU CAN FIND OUR SETTING NEAR TO FARMER TEDS
Black-a-Moor Lane
Haskayne
Nr, Ormskirk
Lancashire L39 7HX

www.haskayne.lancs.sch.uk

Brookfield Park Primary School

School Lane Campus, School Lane,
Skelmersdale WN8 8EH
Tel: **01695 724042**
Headteacher: Miss Paula Evans
www.brookfieldparkprimary.co.uk

WE OFFER:

- At least 15 hours free nursery provision **(new flexible hours)** for 3 and 4 year olds
- Extra hours are available with payment if you are not eligible for 30 hours provision
- **FREE** 30 hours nursery provision from 3 years of age (for eligible pupils)
- Excellent and very spacious facilities both indoor & outdoor
- Smooth transition from Nursery to Reception in our purpose built Early Years Foundation Stage Unit
- Highly experienced staff focused on outstanding progress for our pupils in the early years

Breakfast Club	Nursery Provision	Toddler Group
from 7.45am **Second Sibling is FREE**	8.55am - 3.15pm School Lunches available for Nursery Pupils	TUESDAY MORNINGS 9am - 11am

Our very recent OFSTED report (January 2018) stated that Brookfield Park continues to be good.

We are 'a team that is committed to ensuring that pupils receive a high standard of education, in a caring and supportive environment'.

'...pupils spoke enthusiastically about the way in which teachers make learning fun and interesting.
They are proud of their school and feel cared for and valued.'

St James' Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Ashurst Road, Skelmersdale. WN8 6TN. **Tel: 01695 728989**
Headteacher: Mr D. Iliff **www.st-james-pri.lancs.sch.uk**

'St James' Catholic Primary is a happy and friendly school where pupils' thrive both academically and in their personal development.' *(Ofsted 2017)*

Results at the end of each key stage are well above the national average for both English & Maths.

From Summer 2018 we will start to take children from 2 years old.

Come to our Little Angels pre-school group on a Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00-10:30am

Rise and Shine Breakfast Club 8:00-8:45am
After School Club also available
Call us for more details.

www.st-james-pri.lancs.sch.uk
Book a personalised tour by ringing or calling in to school.

Nursery times
(Monday—Thursday)
Morning: 8:30-11:30am
Lunch: 11:30am-12:15pm
Afternoon: 12:15-3:15pm
(Friday)
Morning: 8:30-11:30am
Faith & Non-Faith families are welcome to apply to our school.

Got a story? Ring the Champ News Desk on 01704 392400

New hospital clinic set up to offer advice and guidance on the menopause

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

WOMEN in the borough who are going through the menopause are now being offered advice and guidance at a new clinic which has been set up at Southport Hospital.

The clinic is run by Dr Paula Briggs, consultant in sexual and reproductive health with Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and a published author on the subject.

Dr Briggs is currently working on a patient handbook to improve understanding of the consequences of the menopause and potential treatment choices, due to be available this summer.

The menopause transition signals the end of women's reproductive lives and can take many years. In some cases symptoms never resolve and many women suffer debilitating consequences from lack of oestrogen, suffering from complex hormone-related conditions - which can be in some circumstances helped with hormone replacement therapy.

All women are affected by longer-term consequences of oestrogen deficiency including a reduction in bone mineral density and an increase in the risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

Patients must be referred by their GP to access the service.

Dr Briggs said: "There are estimated to be more than 15,000 women in our hospital's catchment area who have the potential to benefit from Menopausal Hormone Therapy. They can now benefit from advice in a consultant-led specialist service which will provide them with the right information to make an informed decision regarding their care.

"The clinic will accept 'out of the area' referrals to the menopause service as there are limited training clinics in this specialist field.

"The sessions have been extremely popular with women attending from across the North West. The feedback has been described as providing an informative, sympathetic, helpful and knowledgeable source of information."

Dr Paula Briggs

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3 WINDOWS + 1 COMPOSITE DOOR ONLY £1159*

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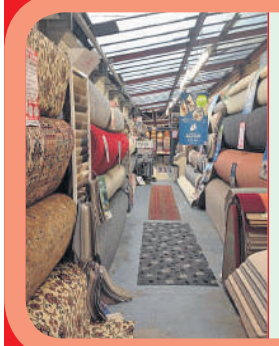

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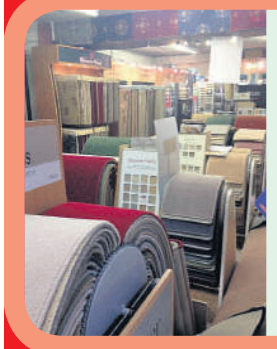

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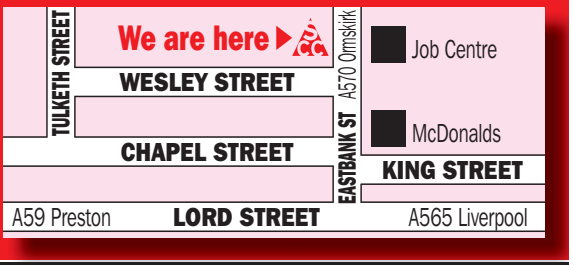

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Merseyrail releases videos about new trains

MERSEYRAIL has released a series of videos to provide passengers with "facts and reassurance" about its new fleet of trains and the future role of guards.

Company bosses say the videos are a response to what they described as "extremely negative messages" by the RMT union which has called a number of strikes over the plans to introduce the trains with driver-operated doors.

Merseyrail MD Andy Heath

Merseyrail managing director, Andy Heath, said: "These videos are about providing those people who travel on our network with factual information on the current state of play over the introduction of these new trains.

"The RMT has been consistent in streaming an extremely negative message about the future associated with our new trains. In these videos, I hope to provide everyone concerned with the facts and reassurance around our position in a number of key areas that cover all the questions that people have been asking us.

"It is important to us that our customers fully understand all of the issues and I have tried to lay these out openly in the videos as an appraisal of where we are.

"I would also like to emphasise to our customers that we, unlike the RMT, fully support the Metro Mayor's call for independent conciliation without any preconditions."

The new videos cover the following themes:

- Andy Heath as the new managing director and his sense of pride as a born-and-bred Liverpudlian and a career railwayman in leading what is a step change for his local rail network.
- A look ahead at the challenges for the company.
- How Merseyrail plans to look after their guards.
- Resolving the current dispute with the RMT and what it takes.

Merseyrail has said "there is a need to modernise, not just the new fleet but how we deliver a better customer experience" And say they will "continue to ensure customer safety through the new trains."

However, the RMT claim that every effort they have made to reach a negotiated settlement has been kicked back in their face.

The videos can be found at www.merseyrail.org/newfleetvideos.

Spartac Club strikes gold with National Championships invite

MEMBERS of the Spartac Gymnastics Club have struck gold again with an invitation to perform at the British Gymnastics National Championships at the Echo Arena in Liverpool on Friday, March 9.

Based at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, Spartac have often been the unsung ambassadors of disability sport.

They have represented Great Britain internationally since 2003 and performed at many national events around the UK, including a performance on the West End stage for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations - showing to the world the heights that people with a disability can reach.

The Spartac Display Team consists of gymnasts aged between three and 42 years, some of whom have been Regional and National Champions in Disability Artistic and Rhythmic gymnastics. There are currently five mainstream gymnasts in the team and it is hoped to maintain this level of inclusion.

The club is run by the charity, Active Therapy Foundation whose aims are to enable young people with a disability to access mainstream activities.

Currently they are embarking on a campaign to raise money to enable them once again to represent Great Britain at the World Gymnaestrada in Austria next year where more than 23,000 gymnasts will come together to celebrate what's best in the sport.

Members of the Spartac Gymnastics Club

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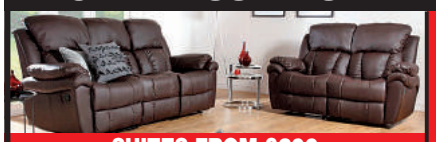

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At some stage in our lives, as we get older, most of us will come to rely on a care service program, whether for ourselves or a relative. From home services to residing in a care home, fortunately we are lucky to live in communities that offer so many different options in levels of care. However, as there is such a vast array of choices available, it can often prove both daunting and confusing when selecting which is going to be right for you or a close relative.

The one common goal for both the patient and the professionals is to ensure that people remain as independent as they can for as long as possible. Over the next few pages the Champion offers you a choice and advice of what services are out there and what you can expect. Where care is concerned, one size can never fit all!

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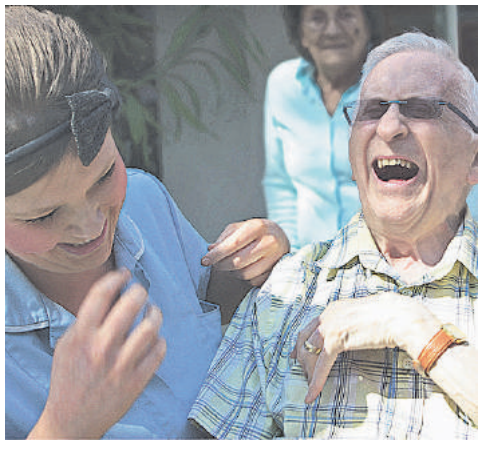

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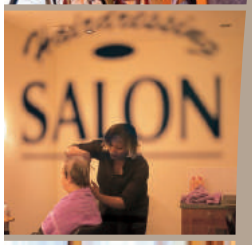
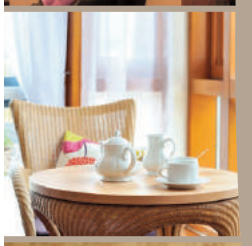
Home Care Services

Who Cares? We Care!

These types of services can be tailored to benefit each patient. Furthermore, these programs can be adapted over time to match the ever changing needs of the individual. From shopping, to cooking and cleaning, or simply planned visits to relieve someone from the acute sense of loneliness, home care services can focus on just one or multiple needs, as and when they arise and it is an effective way of enabling people to remain independent in their own homes.





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bringing quality to later life

carewatch
supporting independence with care at home

carewatch
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We take great pride in our work and nurture our care workers so that they care for each customer in a personalised way, offering support tailored to specific needs. This person-centred approach focuses on choice and openness, which gives plenty of opportunity for all our customers to express their own personal wishes. Our job is to assist either yourself or a loved one to live the life you want to live.

How our home care services can help you

Supporting independence through flexible, personalised home care services.
We provide quality, personalised home care services designed to enable our customers to remain as independent as possible within their own home, safely, comfortably and with dignity.

OUR AIM IS TO HELP YOU LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL.

Personal support home care services

Many people require home care and support for the more personal and daily routines like washing, bathing, assistance with managing medicines, help getting dressed and with personal appearance, assistance with getting settled down for the evening, and other personal, intimate routines. By providing personal care in the home, we help to preserve your dignity, independence and choice.

Practical help at home

When jobs around the home become harder and take much longer to do then we can help free up your time by providing help at home. We can help with preparing and cooking meals, hoovering, laundry and ironing, we can go shopping for you, or with you.
Many people find that this kind support means that they can enjoy a better quality of life. We can also assist with organising days out, or visiting friends and family.

Specialist care at home

Our more specialist care at home often provides an alternative to nursing homes, or residential care. Our trained home care team can support those who require end of life care, palliative care, long term care needs like dementia care, Alzheimer's, and stroke or brain injury rehabilitation. We are often called upon to help support people back to independence following a residential stay, either in a home or a hospital.

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Loneliness

Who Cares? We Care!

Sometimes, independence can seem a very loneliness pursuit. Whilst living alone, without a support network of friends and family living close by, the home can sometimes seem like a prison.

Yet, day centres can play a vital role here, offering the opportunity for new friendships, recreational activities and outings, helping to kick start a new social outlook.

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Adapting your Home and Mobility

If mobility is the major concern, there are a number of useful adaptations that can be made to transform someone's life within their own home. Getting up and down the stairs, getting out of bed and taking a bath or a shower need not pose the problems they sometimes do thanks to an array of solutions available. Bathroom adaptations and stair lifts need not be out of reach as financial help can be available.

Who Cares? We Care!

Transport

If getting from A to B is an issue and travelling on buses proves too difficult, there are a number of reliable pick up services you can benefit from. These services are key in helping people remain independent and ensuring they are able to get to the shops, make doctors appointments and travel to their day care centres. Dial A Ride is one such service and is a free door to door initiative with vehicles specially adapted for wheelchair access. Your local council will be able to provide more details.

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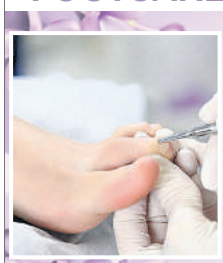

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Who Cares? We Care!

Staying at Home and Mobile Services

Given the choice, most of us will always strive to stay within our familiar surroundings for as long as possible, yet when we begin to struggle with daily chores or getting from A to B, life can become very difficult.

By making a few changes and by learning to rely on the right services, staying at home longer can be a reality.

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ELM HOUSE CARE HOME

Care Homes & Assisted Living

When living at home is no longer possible, care homes offer the very best solution. Sometimes the decision about care is clear cut. When an elderly parent suffers a fall or illness, resulting in a period of time spent in hospital, where it then becomes apparent that returning to their own home is no longer an option. This however is not always the case and for those living independently in their own home, changes to their health and well-being can be much more gradual meaning it can be incredibly difficult and stressful deciding when to consider a move into a care home.

Many offer the opportunity to try them out over a short stay which can be great way of experiencing life in a care home, particularly for someone who is initially reluctant. Care homes today are places of haven for patients, where teams of dedicated carers work tirelessly and care deeply about their residents.

If the individual is still reluctant to move into a care home, maybe assisted living is an option to be considered. Assisted living is a type of residential care that allows for independent living in a specialist complex. Facilities differ but usually nurses and care staff are provided on-site. These facilities are usually more appropriate for those with low level care needs.

Who Cares? We Care!

Making a Will

Writing a will is one of the most important things you will ever do. After all, we spend the majority of our lives working to provide for ourselves and our loved ones. You may have property, shares, savings or investments as well as your personal possessions. All of these form your 'estate' and making a will ensures that when you die, this is shared according to your wishes.

So what will a solicitor need to know? Firstly you will need to make a list of all your assets that are to be included in the will. This should include property as well as vehicles you own, any savings or investments. You must then decide who will get what after you die. This is also the opportunity to add any particular wishes you have for your funeral.

You must then decide who will carry out your wishes after your death. The individual or people you appoint to be executors of your will, should ideally be familiar with financial matters. They could be friends or family members, or a professional such as your solicitor. Using a solicitor will incur fees but they will be familiar with the law and will therefore be able to provide sound advice and draw up your will as it should be.

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Final Arrangements

Who Cares? We Care!

When you lose someone, however prepared you may think you are, the reality is that you feel helpless and generally unable to think straight for a while. A funeral director will help and it pays to choose a firm as soon as possible. Furthermore with so many pre-paid funeral plans available, the earlier you decide on what you want, the easier it will be on your relatives.

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Studio-themed music and cocktail venue is trio's recipe for success

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN award-winning musician and music promoter from Aughton has teamed up with the owners of a successful crazy golf course in Liverpool, one of whom is also from West Lancs,to create a live music venue and cocktail bar themed on a TV and film studio!

On Air, opening soon at the former Cains brewery in Stanhope Street, Liverpool, now renamed Cains Brewery Village, features 60ft-high film sets, a stage for live music and a 'secret garden' mezzanine bar area offering views over the action.

Kip Piper, from Ormskirk and Danny Bolger, from Southport, who have already created Ghetto Golf and who own Birdies Bar and BBQ both at the same site, are now working with music promoter and agent Ethan Allen on the novel concept.

Ethan, from Aughton, is an international award-winning musician with 25 years' experience promoting live music in bars, clubs, concerts and festivals. After achieving three No.1 hits worldwide in country music charts in the mid 1990s, Ethan turned his talents to writing music for TV and film, running a successful record company and music publishing house.

Two years ago he unexpectedly received 7.9 million 'hits' online with one of his songs, *Something In The Water*, after a line dancer choreographer used it to accompany a dance routine at Crystal Boot Awards in Blackpool, run by Linedancer, a sister organisation to the Champion.

Ethan says: "We wanted to bring something unique to the city. Inside a huge warehouse we have built On Air, a full movie set, where you become part of the cast.

"Outside the front of the venue we have doubled the size of Birdies bar which is now a huge festival garden bar. Alongside that we now have our BBQ where a selection of different food vendors line the entrance to Birdies bar serving awesome tastes all day and all night."

Kip Piper, Danny Bolger, and Ethan Allen at their new music venue and bar at the former Cains Brewery in Liverpool.

In 2010 Ethan re-opened the legendary Liverpool live music venue, Eric's after it had been left to ruin for nearly 30 years. He went on to provide live music for more than 30 venues throughout the North West, working with some 60-plus full-time musicians.

Acting as manager to the artists and agent to the venues, Ethan filled the role as music director and for the last eight years supplied live music seven nights a week to the majority of live venues on Mathew Street.

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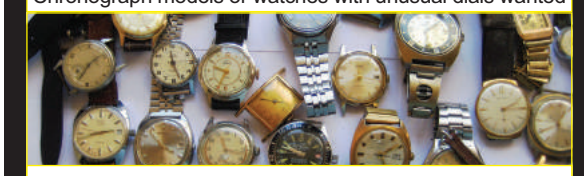

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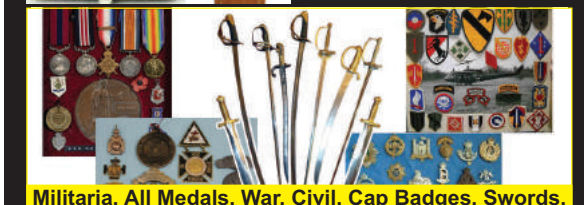

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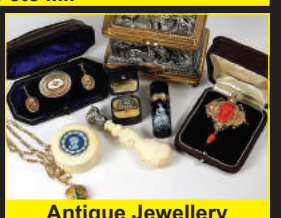

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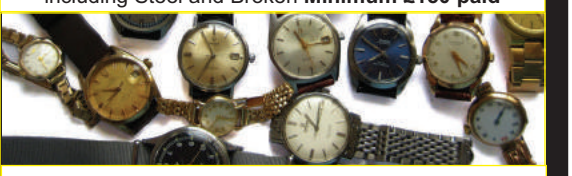

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Pub to host 12-day beer and cider festival

BEER and cider enthusiasts will be able to enjoy up to 15 real ales and five ciders from the UK and overseas during a 12-day festival at The Court Leet.

The pub, in Wheatsheaf Walk, Ormskirk, has sourced beers from brewers in Greece, Italy, Australia, Canada, USA and the Republic of Ireland.

The festival will run from next week (Wednesday, March 14) until Sunday, March 25.

It will feature a selection of beers brewed exclusively for the festival. All beers and ciders will be priced at £2.19 a pint.

Court Leet manager, Lisa Newton, said: "The festival will give people the opportunity to enjoy a superb selection of UK and international beers as well as a choice of ciders. Many of the beers on offer have not been available in the pub before and I am looking forward to serving them."

Customers will be able to sample any three of the real ales or ciders in special third-of-a-pint glasses for the price of a pint.

Heritage group seeks memorials to our unsung heroes

Report by **Kenny Parker**

PEOPLE in the North West are being asked to share their knowledge of local monuments, street shrines, and community tributes in public places for a national exhibition - and the best of them may be considered for listed status.

Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage) has launched a new project, Immortalised, described as a season to help people explore the country's memorial landscape.

The public's stories and pictures of lesser-known memorials - those that are well-loved by small groups or communities but unknown nationally - will be recorded to form part of an exhibition in the autumn.

The best examples of community memorials may then be listed by Historic England as part of its efforts to protect and champion what's special in the historic environment.

Rituals

Along with the memorials, the public body responsible for championing and looking after England's historic environment also wants to learn about any rituals that are attached to them.

Immortalised also seeks to address a well-documented dearth of women, working people and people of colour in England's collection of statues.

An example of well known memorials in the North West, cited by Historic England, is the Grade II listed Heroes of the Engine Room Memorial on Liverpool's waterfront, dedicated to the 244 engineers who lost their lives in the Titanic disaster.

Duncan Wilson, chief executive of Historic England, said: "One of Historic England's most important jobs is to work with the public to identify and record information about what's embedded in our streets, squares and parks, and to share it with others to enable current and future generations to understand and value their local historic environment.

The Grade II listed Heroes of the Engine Room memorial on Liverpool's waterfront.

"Exploring the stories and histories of less well-known people and groups is an important part of this, and that's what this project is all about."

More information can be found on Historic England's website at www.historicengland.org.uk.

Staff and children at Nursery on the Hill which has earned a 'good' rating from government inspectors

Nursery celebrates 'good' rating from watchdog

A NURSERY which uses woodland and the natural environment to promote learning and development is celebrating after receiving a positive Ofsted report.

Inspectors rated Nursery on the Hill, next to Christ Church on Parbold Hill, as 'good' in all four standards of provision.

Now the staff are dedicated to achieving an 'outstanding' rating when Ofsted revisits in three years.

Owner, Marie Kirkham, paid tribute to manager, Sue Sumner and her staff for their consistent hard work. She said: "My colleagues have concentrated on better activity provision and monitoring of the children's progress and creating better relationships with the families.

"The inspector was very positive about our work with the children, and we were delighted to receive this rating."

The inspection report states that "the owner and her committed team show a strong focus and passionate drive to provide high-quality care and education for children." Staff are described as "good role models."

Mrs Kirkham, who took over the reins in 2014, said that the focus of the management and staff will be on achieving the targets set by the inspection, particularly in detailed analysis of children by group, and in improving the information on children from parents when they first attend the nursery.

The nursery provides a Forest School environment on site for children. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that helps learners achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

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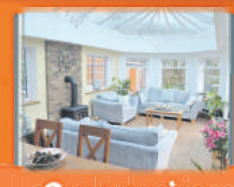
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Magic word no longer works a treat for calling naughty Cinders

I ADMIT I was a bit stumped thinking of a subject for this week until a dog gave me an idea at least to give me a start.

Notice I said 'a dog' rather than 'my dog'. And though in fact my dog Tina does come into this - briefly - it is that bundle of misplaced energy, my late brother's dog Cinders, that has got me all of a tither.

You may recall that Cinders is probably the greediest creature on this earth. Not good if you inadvertently leave anything remotely edible within her reach, but with the plus point that it is always easy to get her to come, simply by uttering the magic word 'treats'! If she is out in the back garden playing with her stuffed lamb (don't ask), 'treats' immediately results in abandoned lamb and her presence at my feet. Or it did until very recently.

I haven't the foggiest idea what caused it, but obviously she has managed to give herself a scare in the kitchen and at present scurries through as quickly as possible going out of or into the house. Lately this nonsense has got worse and Cinders has taken to ignoring the siren call of 'treats' and finding something of absorbing interest as far down the garden as possible.

This was a nuisance at first but I found that if I went out to her and assured her of treats if she came in, she would reluctantly trot to the door and scurry through the kitchen with all possible speed. This still works, mornings and afternoons. But for reasons unknown, except in that strange little doggy head, in the evenings and even after dark she now refuses stubbornly to come in.

Which is where Tina briefly enters the story. The plan was to get her to help by herding Cinders homewards and this evening she appeared to be doing so. She got the little miscreant following her as she trotted homewards, until about 10 or 15ft away she stopped. Cinders stopped too, only to turn back towards the garden again, while Tina proceeded demurely into the house.

And this culminated at about 5.30pm today with me chasing the little tyke round the garden until I finally managed to grab her by the scruff of her neck and forcibly march her back into the house.

I was literally freezing by the time Cinders was recaptured, while she (and Tina also for that matter) seem quite happy no matter how cold or bitter the wind. Having a double hairy coat probably helps.

Talking of the weather, obviously I cannot speak for the whole of the Champion's circulation area, but where I live, and certainly in Southport and Bootle too, there were few real accumulations of snow. We do seem regularly to escape the worst of whatever weather is going - doesn't stop it from being bitterly cold though!

At this point I was about to put my foot in it by comparing the reaction to snow these days with many of the winters I remember from my youth. Luckily I have just watched the late evening news on TV and witnessed the scenes of chaos in many parts of the North West. Though I reckon that in general these days everything from trains to schools to cars in a few inches of snow seem to come to a stop rather more easily than they ever used to.

So I suppose my best excuse for the mistake I was about to make is that I got so used to schools closing at the drop of a snow flake that I almost made fun of what has obviously turned into a serious situation.

Anyway, I'm just about to make myself a comforting mug of Horlicks, then off to bed - and if I wake to three foot of snow outside my front door it could also show just how wrong I can be.

Breathe Easy group get advice on fire safety

KAREN Scarborough of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service was guest speaker at the latest meeting of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group.

She started by telling members about how fire safety visits can be provided by the local Fire Service.

And she explained that although chip pans used to be the main cause of kitchen fires, food left cooking on the hob is still a fire risk and it was best to never leave cooking unattended.

She also warned about the dangers of leaving other household appliances, such as washing machines, running overnight or when going out, pointing out that electrical fires in both washing machines and tumble-dryers are relatively common.

She advised that in the case of the latter, the filter should be cleaned after each use.

Karen further urged that particular precautions be taken by those respiratory patients using home oxygen equipment as oxygen is highly flammable and stressed that hoarding oxygen cylinders in the home is a dangerous practice to be avoided.

She went on to warn against the overloading of sockets, advising against the use of multi-plugs and not to plug anything in with a very high voltage, stressing that a multi-extension lead was much safer.

In the second half of her talk, she told the group that they should all have a Fire Plan, including closing internal doors before going to bed at night as a closed door can hold back a fire for 10 minutes.

She also advised that people should also know exactly where their house keys are before going to bed - preferably near to where they sleep.

And she said it was "an excellent idea" to place a mobile phone by the bed as landlines can quickly be cut off in the event of fire.

She told the group that for people who have to wear hearing aids and have no hearing partner with them, the Fire Brigade can supply vibrating and or light-based fire alarms.

And she emphasised that in the case of fire, not to attempt to tackle it with a fire extinguisher but to follow the golden rule to 'Get Out, Stay Out and call the Fire Brigade Out.'

Smoke alarms are, of course, recommended she said but added that they need to be placed correctly - on the ceiling - and must be tested preferably once per week.

The group's next meeting will be held on Monday, March 19 at the Guide HQ., Green Lane, Ormskirk, when Dawn Threlfall will be the speaker, on the subject of Medicines Management. Coffee and tea will be available from 10.45am and the meeting will start at 11.15am.

Karen Scarborough at the Breathe Easy group meeting

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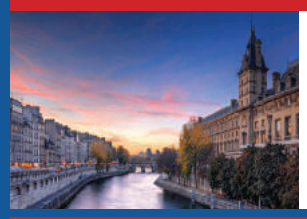

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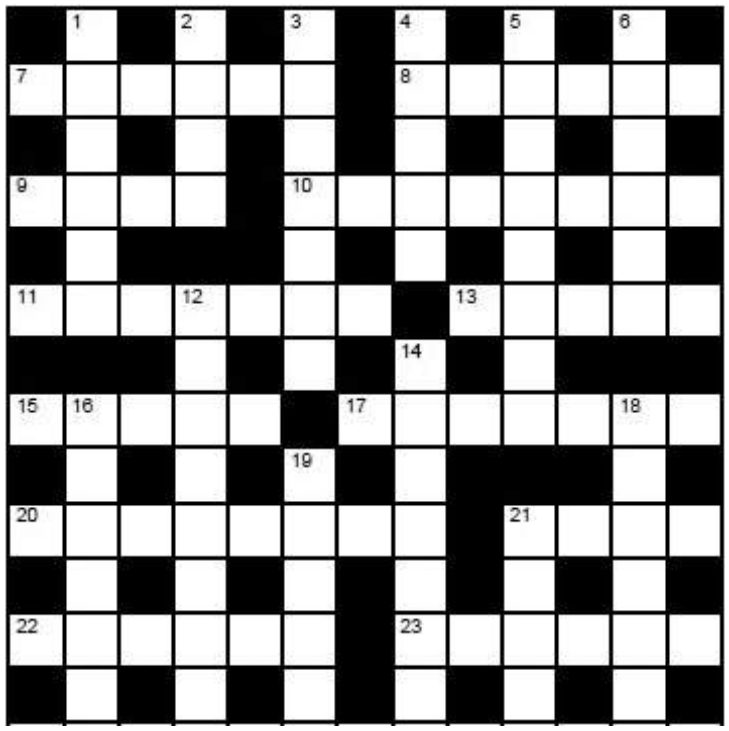

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. No-good. 8. Tremor. 9. Poem. 10. Prospect. 11. Faintly. 13. Snort. 15. Snack. 16. Alcohol. 18. Esoteric. 19. Leek. 21. Kimono. 22 Eunuch.

Down: 1. Logo. 2. Communication. 3. Adeptly. 4. Athos. 5. Ten-pin bowling. 6. Concerto. 12. Agnostic. 14. Glacier. 17. Broom. 20. Each.

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ACROSS

7. Member of the clergy engaged as assistant to a vicar, rector, or parish priest (6)
8. Fairness (6)
9. A large body of matter with no definite shape (4)
10. Situation in which a plane turns round and round as it falls quickly towards the ground (8)
11. In a formal or rigid manner (7)
13. Characterized by pleasantly warm weather (5)
15. Domineering (5)
17. Athletics throwing event (7)
20. Small room or part of a pantry or kitchen where cooking utensils are cleaned and stored (8)
21. After the appointed time (4)
22. Semi-conscious state typically induced by hypnosis (6)
23. Join or connect (a rope or ropes) by interweaving the strands at the ends (6)

DOWN

1. Country on the Persian Gulf sandwiched between Iraq and Saudi Arabia (6)
2. Term for a girl or young woman, particularly in Scotland or Northern England (4)
3. Fruitful, high-yielding (7)
4. Satan (5)
5. Parasol (8)
6. An open-roofed entrance hall (6)
12. Section of a motorway or dual carriageway for use by vehicles overtaking (4,4)
14. A kind of West Indian song typically with words improvised on a topical theme (7)
16. The Academy Awards (6)
18. Not damaged or impaired in any way; complete (6)
19. Mention or allude to (5)
21. A type of inflatable mattress used as a bed or for floating on water (4)

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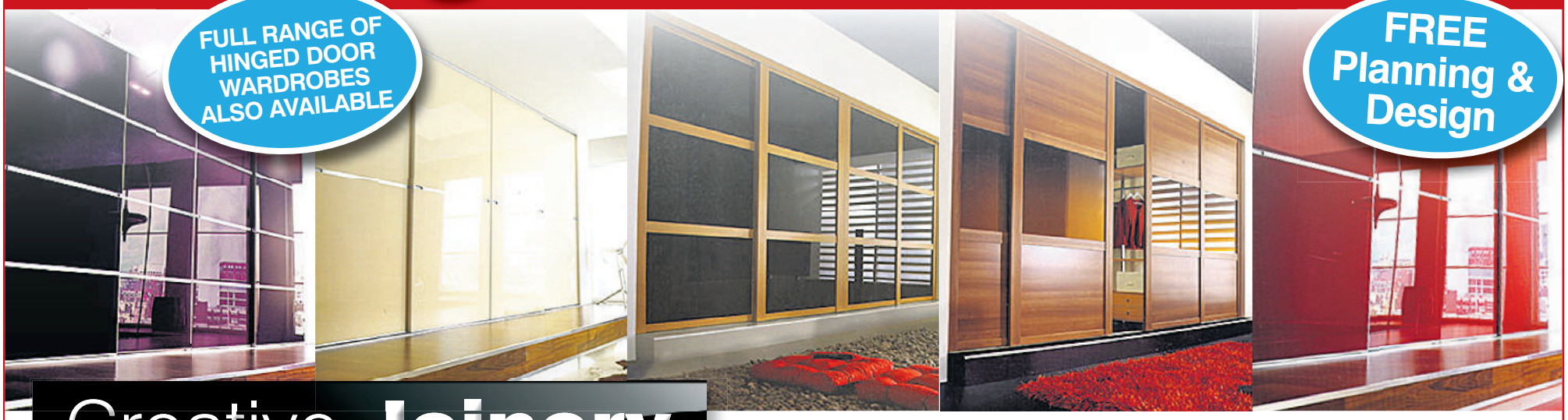

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Library to host author's talk on First World War controversy

THE author of a book on a First World War controversy will be giving a talk based on the book at Tarleton Library on Tuesday, March 20 from 10.30am.

Joseph, 1917, tells the story of a man from Fylde, Lancashire, who was forced to fight in the First World War after previously being granted an exemption.

The ruling, which prompted a group of local councillors to go out on strike, was unearthed by former lawyer David Hewitt when he was researching the work of the Military Service Tribunals that sat across the country during the First World War.

Mr Hewitt, also from Fylde and who now sits as a tribunal judge himself, said: "Joseph didn't want to go to war and he fought only because a military tribunal forced him to.

"That tribunal sat in London, many miles from Joseph's home, and its decision was so outrageous that his own local tribunal went on strike.

"The book is partly about that strike and what caused it, and it draws on fascinating legal records and vibrant newspaper reports of the time.

"It also raises an interesting question - if you put a man in harm's way then realise you made a mistake, shouldn't you at least try to make amends?

"*Joseph, 1917* is also about what happened to a man and a community in a terrible time and ends with a sad and maddening twist."

Author David Hewitt.

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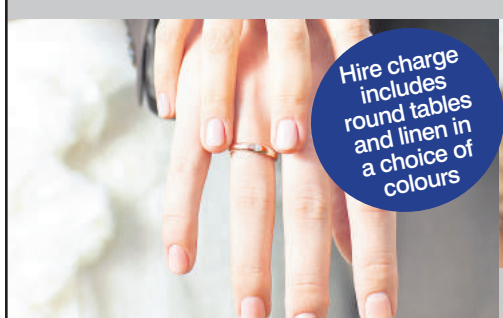

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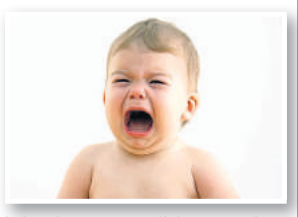

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Amy Ross as Elphaba in the Wicked UK & Ireland Tour. Photo Credit Matt Crockett

Production flying into city's Empire theatre this week

WICKED the West End and Broadway musical that tells the untold story of the Witches of Oz, will begin performances at the Liverpool Empire this week.

The Wizard of Oz prequel will play for four weeks from today (Wednesday) to Saturday, March 31.

The 2018 UK & Ireland Tour of Wicked recently opened in Bristol where it has already broken Box Office records and earned rave reviews.

Wicked features Amy Rossas Elphaba, Helen Woolf as Glinda, Aaron Sidwell (best known as Steven Beale in EastEnders) as Fiyero, Steven Pinder (best known as Max Farnham in Brookside) as The Wizard & Doctor Dillamond, Kim Ismay as Madame Morrible, Emily Shaw as Nessarose and Iddon Jones as Boq. Nikki Bentley is Standby for Elphaba.

Wicked is already the 15th longest running show in West End theatre history and is now in its 12th year at London's Apollo Victoria Theatre.

Around the world, Wicked has been seen by almost 55 million people in 16 countries and won over 100 major awards, including ten theatregoer-voted WhatsOnStage Awards (winning Best West End Show on three occasions) and two Olivier Audience Awards.

Based on the acclaimed, best-selling novel by Gregory Maguire that re-imagines the stories and characters created by L. Frank Baum in The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Wicked tells the untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two sorcery students.

Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

Wicked has music and lyrics by multi Grammy and Academy Award-winner Stephen Schwartz (Godspell, Disney's Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre Dames Enchanted and The Prince of Egypt) and is based on the novel Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire.

Voice of Clannad bringing live show to Atkinson theatre

THE Voice of Clannad, Moya Brennan brings her live solo show – with all the musicality and power of Clannad but with added, heart-warming intimacy to The Atkinson.

Moya Brennan

Her effortless vocals and timeless music pay homage not only to her vibrant traditional Irish heritage but also her grasp of contemporary forms.

With Clannad she rose to prominence with an approach to traditional music which has garnered them 15 million record sales worldwide and a string of awards, including a Grammy in 1998. Their sound has since become the benchmark for the Celtic music genre. Sister Enya joined Clannad for a time before pursuing her own successful career.

Moya's solo career success has resulted in eight albums to her credit and more in the pipeline. Her live show has developed into a spectacle with rhythm, atmosphere and vibrant harmony.

Her voice continues to be in demand in dance music and includes collaborations with Chicane (Saltwater), DJ Roger Shah and Schiller.

"Ireland is changing rapidly but one thing that remains constant is our love of music and wanting the whole world to hear it. I love being part of that", says Moya.

Moya Brennan – The Voice of Clannad is at The Atkinson, Southport on Thursday March 15 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available online at theatkinson.co.uk, by calling 01704 533333 or over the counter during opening hours.

henry.james@champnews.com

Choir fundraising to expand its repertoire and attract new members

AUGHTON Male Voice Choir will be performing a fundraising concert of sacred, show-time and screen music at Aughton Village Hall this Friday March 9.

Accompanied by pianist Joanne Fairclough and under their conductor Andrew Lord the concert is being held to raise much needed funds for the choir.

The choir, which has often helped other local charities and voluntary groups raise funds, plans to increase its repertoire by buying new music and consequently improve its recruitment levels to ensure that it is up to strength and supporting new and local soloists to perform with them.

The Village Hall Committee is contributing by waiving the fees for this event.

The programme includes old favourites, inspiring and uplifting numbers and a host of happy popular music.

Sue Watkinson, of Aughton Village Hall, said: "It will put a spring in your step after the cold weather."

Concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6. Book in advance with any choir member, phone 01695 422 423 or pay on the door. The bar will be open and interval refreshments will be served.

The choir rehearses in Aughton Village Hall each Monday evening and welcomes new members. For enquiries contact Martin Gallagher on 07734 0545 591.

Youngsters to stage Russell's Blood Brothers, the play

Rehearsals for Blood Brothers the play

BLOOD Brothers (The Play) at the Little Theatre

AFTER the outstanding success of Willy Russell's One for the Road last month, The SDC Youth Theatre are presenting his award-winning play, Blood Brothers at the Little Theatre, Southport from Tuesday, March 13 to Saturday, March 17.

The play tells the story of twin brothers, separated at birth when their mother cannot afford to keep them. The boys' lives take different paths but meeting up later in life they form an unlikely friendship. But what will happen when they discover their shared history.

Hilary Thomson is directing a cast of talented youngsters who could be the stars of the future at the SDC and beyond.

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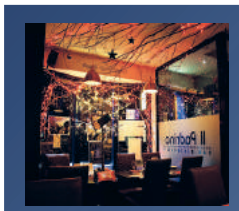

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Experience World's Greatest Show Tunes with The Barricade Boys

PERFORMERS from the musical Les Misèrables have come together to create a new show which is now on its first international tour and is coming to the Southport theatre on Sunday, March 18.

The Barricade Boys have been seen on ITV's This Morning and The Paul O'Grady Show.

They have had sell out performances in London's West End and appeared at the St James Theatre on Broadway and many international dates.

This group not only perform the world's greatest show tunes, they also celebrate music from some of the most iconic names in the music industry, from powerful ballads and operatic arias to some of the best pop, rock and swing numbers of all time.

The production has been put together by Scott Garnham and Simon Schofield and they are joined by Sam Edwards (Fiyero in the UK and Ireland tour of Wicked) and Chris Cowley (Enjolras in Les Misèrables).

Scott may be known to North West audiences as he played Billy Elliot's brother, Tony, in the touring production of the show which visited the Liverpool Empire last year. He commented: "The Barricade Boys is a really good night's entertainment. We perform Les Misèrables songs and we do our own unique version of them. We also do Motown, swing and pop.

"I think the music of Les Misèrables is so popular as it has been in everyone's psyche for 30 years. My generation grew up with the show. The song, I Dreamed A Dream, became very popular when Susan Boyle sang it on Britain's Got Talent and the programme brought the musical to a whole new audience.

"I think people relate to the music and people go back to watch it again as they love everything about it."

Other musicals are also celebrated in The Barricade Boys and they include: Jersey Boys, A Chorus Line and Wicked.

Scott added: "The show sold out at the Charing Cross theatre in London. Since then it has played on Broadway and all over the world. We have also appeared on TV.

"We have created something different, and we hope that people will enjoy it."

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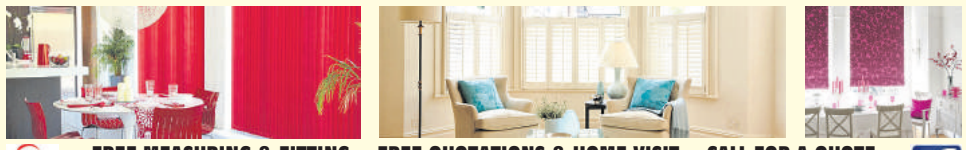
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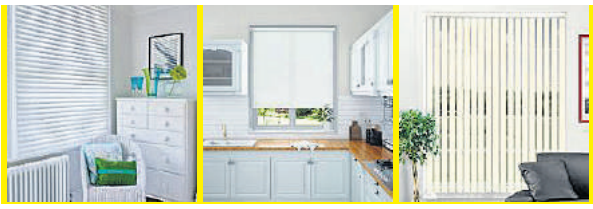
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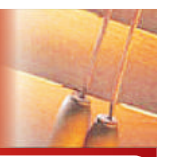
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ELECTRIC GUITAR Unused Jonny Brook Sunburst Electric Guitar kit, including strap, carrycase, amplifier and quality display stand. As new £125. Maghull collection 07788 230869

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APPLE IPHONE6S Unlocked 16GB Black/Silver.Excellent condition. Collection Southport town centre. £190

BUSH RECORDDECK MTT1 Mini TurntableFully working with phono audio connections and good stylus.Collection Southport town centre. £25 07511244183

SAMSUNG S6EDGEPLUS Gold Unlocked 32GB. Excellent condition Boxed. Collection Southport town centre. £210 07511244183

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PROJECTOR OPTOMA excellent condition easy connect, had little use, complete with PC cable, DVI to HDMI and VGA cables, power cable, Remote control and Leather carry case. £140 ono 07876701547

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HALOGEN BULBS Nine power saving long lasting halogen bulbs still in boxes £18 01704564732

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LEATHER SUITE Stokers brown leather recliners two seater and two chairs. Excellent condition. Cost over £2000 £350. 0151 3064912/07517530495

LLADRO FIGURINE Very large beautiful piece of Lladro, make great present, perfect condition, stamped underneath, £150, 01704 573121

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – Section 123 (2(A)
Notice of Intention to Dispose of Open Space Land

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Lancashire Borough Council as owner of the land described in the Schedule below and further to the planning permission granted on 23rd June 2017 intends to dispose of the land in order to facilitate development of the land.

A plan showing the land in question can be inspected on weekdays during normal office hours at the address below. Any objections to the proposed disposal should be made to me in writing at the address below no later than 4pm on 16th March 2018.

SCHEDULE

Land on the north west side of Digmoor Road, Skelmersdale

Dated 7th March 2018

Terry Broderick
Borough Solicitor
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street
Ormskirk L39 2DF
01695 577177
www.westlancs.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council – Council Tax 2018/2019

Notice is hereby given that on 28th February 2018, the West Lancashire Borough Council in accordance with section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set for the chargeable year beginning 1st April 2018 Council Tax Rates including the Council Tax Rates set by Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.

For dwelling within each property band and situated in those parts of the Councils area to which no special item relates as detailed below:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
NON – PARISHED AREAS	1158.21	1351.25	1544.28	1737.32	2123.39	2509.46	2895.53	3474.64

For dwellings within each property band and situated in those parts of the Councils area to which a special item relates as detailed below:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
AUGHTON	1169.07	1363.92	1558.76	1753.61	2143.30	2532.99	2922.68	3507.22
BICKERSTAFFE	1178.38	1374.79	1571.18	1767.58	2160.37	2553.17	2945.96	3535.16
BISPHAM	1163.90	1357.88	1551.86	1745.85	2133.82	2521.78	2909.75	3491.70
BURSCOUGH	1182.83	1379.97	1577.11	1774.25	2168.53	2562.80	2957.08	3548.50
DALTON	1171.44	1366.69	1561.92	1757.17	2147.65	2538.13	2928.61	3514.34
DOWNHOLLAND	1182.96	1380.12	1577.28	1774.44	2168.76	2563.08	2957.40	3548.88
GREAT ALTCAR	1167.30	1361.86	1556.40	1750.96	2140.06	2529.16	2918.26	3501.92
HALSALL	1172.21	1367.58	1562.95	1758.32	2149.06	2539.79	2930.53	3516.64
HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL	1184.60	1382.04	1579.47	1776.91	2171.78	2566.65	2961.51	3553.82
HILLDALE	1194.23	1393.27	1592.31	1791.35	2189.43	2587.50	2985.58	3582.70
LATHOM	1169.59	1364.53	1559.45	1754.39	2144.25	2534.12	2923.98	3508.78
LATHOM SOUTH	1177.74	1374.04	1570.32	1766.62	2159.20	2551.78	2944.36	3533.24
NEWBURGH	1178.19	1374.56	1570.92	1767.29	2160.02	2552.75	2945.48	3534.58
NORTH MEOLS	1181.56	1378.50	1575.42	1772.35	2166.20	2560.06	2953.91	3544.70
PARBOLD	1180.84	1377.65	1574.45	1771.26	2164.87	2558.48	2952.10	3542.52
RUFFORD	1184.15	1381.51	1578.87	1776.23	2170.95	2565.66	2960.38	3552.46
SCARISBRICK	1167.82	1362.47	1557.10	1751.74	2141.01	2530.29	2919.56	3503.48
SIMONSWOOD	1172.66	1368.11	1563.55	1759.00	2149.89	2540.78	2931.66	3518.00
TARLETON	1179.57	1376.17	1572.76	1769.36	2162.55	2555.74	2948.93	3538.72
UP HOLLAND	1172.38	1367.78	1563.17	1758.57	2149.36	2540.15	2930.95	3517.14
WRIGHTINGTON	1167.46	1362.05	1556.62	1751.20	2140.35	2529.51	2918.66	3502.40

Kim Webber B.Sc.,M.Sc.,
Chief Executive
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
West Lancashire, L39 2DF
www.westlancs.gov.uk

1st March 2018

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IN MEMORIAM

PIGGOTT MAUREEN

March 2008

10 long years Mo.
Happy times spent together,
Memories will last forever.
RIP Mo
Love Ken
x

BOYER MARY

Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you're always there,
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered every day.
Love Ronnie x

PAMELA STODDERN

In loving memory
5 years
24/02/57 – 07/03/13

God saw you getting tired,
and a cure was not to be,
so he put his arms around you,
and whispered,
"Come to me".
He didn't like what you went through,
and he gave you rest,
his garden must be beautiful,
he only takes the best.

When we saw you sleeping,
so peaceful and free from pain,
we wouldn't wish you back,
to suffer that again.

We all love and miss you so much.
Your loving Husband Robbie, Daughters Lisa, Sarah, Emma, all your loving Grandchildren and son-in-laws
xxxx

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

BIRTHDAYS

MARGARET WILLIAMS

7th March 1928

90 Years Old

Happy 90th Birthday
Margaret
From all your family
and friends
always loved
XXXX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WITHER JOYCE

The greatest comfort during our sorrow was the expressions of sympathy conveyed to us in many ways
We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you most sincerely.

BURGE BRENDA

21st February 2018
Aged 84 years
Peacefully in Southport Hospital

Most loved Mum, Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandma, Great Grandma and Friend to many. She will be greatly missed.
Committal at Southport Crematorium on Friday 16th March at 14.00pm followed by a service of celebration at St John's Church Birkdale at 15.00pm.
Family flowers only by request please. The family are gratefully receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice and Macmillan cancer support. Further enquiries to Broadbents and Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4AG
Tel: 01704 550055

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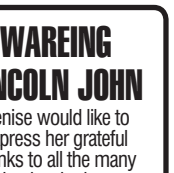

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WAREING LINCOLN JOHN

Denise would like to express her grateful thanks to all the many friends who have supported her on the loss of her special brother Lincoln and to everyone who came to his celebration of life.
Thank you dearly for the generous donations given for St Stephen's Parish Church, Mencap and Alzheimer's Research UK. Sincere thanks to The Reverend Canon Les Thomas, Reverend Rebecca Clarke, Mr Tom Cropper the organist, Mr Raymond Smith AICO Banks Brass Band for the thoughtful service and wonderful music.
A special thank you to Lincoln's lifelong friend Mr David Yardley. Thank you to all the staff at Wimbrick Crescent for all the love, care and support to both of us over the last nine years, good times and sad.
Finally a grateful thank you to Mr Carl Howard at Howards Funeral Directors and all his staff for their compassionate and professional funeral arrangements.
God Bless you all.

TURNER WILLIAM PETER

Gill and Katie would like to wish their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards and messages of condolence, sympathy and support, as well as those who made charitable donations to North West Air Ambulance, we are truly grateful. A special word of thanks to the staff of Ward 11B at Southport General Hospital for their compassion and kindness while caring for Peter. Thank you to John Milton for his comforting words and lovely service and to Lisa at MLS Funeral Directors for her sensitive and professional handling of arrangements, also to The Kicking Donkey for their hospitality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TATHAM BARBARA IRENE

Barbara's family and Jim would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for a very supportive funeral, for all the kind messages, flowers, cards of condolence and the generous donations received for Queenscourt Hospice. A special thank you to all the staff at Queenscourt Hospice, Kingsley Nursing Home and the palliative nurses from Ainsdale Medical Centre for the kindness and care given to Barbara. Thank you to Derek Crawford and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for all your help.

MELLOR NICHOLAS BRIAN (NICK)

The family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many messages of condolence, cards and donations for the British Heart foundation, received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Son and Brother.
Special thanks to Rev. Lin Camp for her prayers & kind ministrations and to Sally Hunter & Team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for all their care & dignified Funeral arrangements.

WILLIAMS GLADYS

Lynne, Stephen and families would like to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, messages of sympathy and kind donations received following the sad loss of their Mum Gladys.
Thanks also to Rev. Jane Morgan MBE, for her lovely service, to staff of Ward 10B Southport Hospital for their care of Gladys, and to Hunters Funeral Directors.

DEATHS

DWYER JOHN JOSEPH

31st January 2018
Aged 78 years

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Service at St Joseph The Worker RC Church, Kirkby on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 12.00pm, followed by burial at Liverpool Road Cemetery, Skelmersdale at 1.30pm. Flowers, or donations welcome to "Dementia UK".
All enquiries to The Co-op Funeralcare, Kirkby.
Tel 0151 548 2908.

DASH LILIAN

February 27th 2018
Peacefully at home with her family by her side
aged 102 years

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral service at St Georges URC, Northway, Maghull on Friday March 9th 2018 at 11:00am followed by burial at Bootle Cemetery.
Family flowers only please but donations, if desired for Claire House Children's Hospice c/o Graham J Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB
Tel:0151 520 3330
or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

DEATHS

CROOKHAM IAN

Passed away
27th February 2018

For Funeral Arrangements and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton
Tel: 01695 424888.

JAGO DOREEN

Died 1st March 2018
aged 89 Years

Passed away peacefully at home with her loving family by her side.
Dearly loved Wife to the late Lenny. Loving Mum of Doreen, Alan and Tracy. Mother in law of Linda and Dave. Grandmother of Jane and Mark, John, Darren and Linda, Natalie and David, Leneena and Matt, Jessica and Samantha. Great Grandmother of Jordan, Elissia, Paige, Ivy and Sophia. We will miss you forever.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Directors
01695 559868

DOLAN BRENDA

2nd March 2018
Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale
aged 70 years

The dearly loved Wife of Bob, loving Mum of Andrea and devoted Grandma of Tom and Matthew.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 12th March 2018 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Scarisbrick.
Tel:01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

TEVENDALE DOROTHY

On 25th February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
In her 85th year.

Beloved Wife of Ian, loving Mum of Paul, Mark and Dawn, dear Mother in law of Karen and Stuart and a much loved Grandma of Christopher and Laura.
Funeral service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 8th March at 2:00pm. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Cancer Research UK
Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG.
Tel: 01704 214118

ADAMS GREENWAY CATHERINE

24th February 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 46 years.

Loving Wife of Ste, Devoted Mum of Kirsty and Dylon, and a dear friend to many.
Will be sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.
Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 9th March at 12.15pm.
Family flowers only please by request.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel: 01695 559868

AYLING HERBERT (BERT)

24th February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital aged 90 years.

Loving Husband of Irene, devoted Dad of Linda and partner Sara.
Will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.
Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 9th March at 9.30 am. Family flowers only please by request.
Donations if desired to Cancer Research.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

PHILLIPS HENRY FRANCIS

24th February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital surrounded by his loving Family. Aged 88 years.

Loving Husband of the late Eileen, Devoted Dad of Les, Frank, Elaine, Ronnie, Jeanette, Martin and Ray. Cherished Grandad, Great Grandad, and Great Great Grandad and a dear Father in law.
Will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 12th March at 4.00pm. Family flowers only please by request.
All enquires to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service
29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

MATCHETT J.A.D. (Don)

Peacefully in his sleep on 21st February 2018
following a short illness

Beloved Husband of the late Deanne (Bobby). Much loved Father of Beverley, Donald and Peter. Father-In-Law to Brett, Janice and Rebecca. Doting Grandfather to Benedict and Ishbel. Friend to all who knew him and a true gentleman.
Funeral Service at St. Lukes Church Crosby at 11:00am on Tuesday 13th March followed by cremation at Thornton Crematorium.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Age UK c.o H. Leslie Humpreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 5SE
Tel: 0151 924 4805

COOPER MARY

23rd February 2018
Aged 98 years

Passed away peacefully in hospital surrounded by her loving family.
Funeral service and cremation to take place at Thornton Crematorium at 10.40am on Monday 12th March 2018.
As a celebration of Mary's life the family have requested people to wear bright clothing if they wish to do so. Family flowers only donations if desired to Aintree Hospitals palliative care. Mary will be sadly missed by all her family. All enquiries to Craven Funeral Directors, 44 Liverpool Road, Lydiate L31 2LZ
Tel: 0151 531 7890
where Mary will be resting

Announcements

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DEATHS

CATTERALL STANLEY (STAN)

February 23rd 2018
Aged 97 years
Passed away peacefully in Southport Hospital surrounded by his family.

Dearly beloved Husband of the late Betty. Much loved Father of Sheila. Dear Father in law of David and beloved Grandad of Damian. Stan will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. The Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 12th March 2018 at 11.30am. Family flowers only by request please, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Motor Neurone Disease Association. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

DEATHS

DALEY SAMUEL (SAM)

27th February 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family.
Aged 78 years.

Loving Husband of Pat, devoted Dad of Maria, cherished Grandad of Adam, Bradley, Sam and Great Grandad of Tom, Adam and Ruby. Will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends. Requiem mass will be held at St Richards Church on Friday 16th March at 10.15am followed by committal at St Helens crematorium. Flowers or donations if desired to Zoe's place. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

PARKER JACK MARSH

Peacefully at Stocks Hall Nursing Home on 26th February 2018 aged 83 years.

Dear Husband of Alma. Much loved Dad of Charles, John and Anne. Funeral Service and Interment will take place at St Mary the Virgin Church, Rufford on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 2.00pm. Family flowers only by request please but the family are receiving donations for Dementia UK. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770

DEATHS

FORMBY TREVOR

25th February 2018
Aged 70 years

Died peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Loving Husband of Ann, much loved Dad of Kevin and Paul, cherished Grandad of Charlotte, Charlie, Thomas and Florence. Brother of Brian and the late John. Father-in-law of Shona and Cheryl. Trevor will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP on Friday 9th March at 10:00am. Family Flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Dementia UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR, Telephone: 01704 500086

Family Announcement? **01704 392392**

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01704 891555
22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(MOSS HEY LANE, MERE BROW, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Traffic Regulation Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 92 of the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to prohibit driving of motor vehicles on Moss Hey Lane, Mere Brow, from its junction with A565 Southport New Road for a length of 9 metres in a southerly direction.
A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF and at the offices of the Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ, and on Lancashire County Council's website http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/roadworks-and-traffic-regulation-orders/permanent.aspx. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to the Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4\894.6328\ML2** before the 04 April 2018.

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services
07 March 2018

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

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Brits really aren't too hot at coping with extreme cold

More should be done to prepare motorists for coping with snowy conditions

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

THIS TIME last week there was a joke doing the rounds in the bars of Helsinki about our recent spate of bracing weather.

The English called the weather front, on account of it sweeping across the North Sea straight from the chillier bits of Russia, The Beast From The East. The Dutch dubbed it The Siberian Bear. Even the Swedes got a bit over-excited and labelled it The Snow Cannon. But the Finns called it… Wednesday. It's a bit of a harsh observation, but when it comes from a country that's produced seven world rally champions there is an element of truth in it. We Brits just aren't too hot at coping with extreme cold. I can understand the schools closing for the day and the train operators finding things a bit tricky – but all those warnings about not travelling unless it's absolutely necessary rang hollow.

Okay, so horsepower hedonists like me who venture out simply because it's fun had to hang fire on getting their MX-5s and M3s out for a few days, but everyone else who's vaguely normal only ever travels because it's necessary. You might be lucky enough to work from home or to have a boss nice enough to deem your drive in non-essential, but for the rest of us we're on the roads not to be annoying, but because we have to be.

Which is why there really ought to be more emphasis on learning what to do when you have to go out in the snow, so you don't have to stay in and listen to people on the news telling you how treacherous it is out there. If you woke up to a genuine ten-foot high snowdrift than fair enough, but you'd be surprised at how far you can get on the white stuff in a car that *isn't* a Land Rover Discovery if you drive sensibly.

Even on quiet roads that hadn't been gritted my 20-year-old Toyota Avensis managed to cope admirably, and one pal of mine managed to overcome just about everything in a Fiat Cinquecento.

Neither had chunky winter tyres or fancy traction control systems – but they did have decent rubber, a lack of weight and some careful driving in their favour.

But far too few drivers I encountered during Snowmageddon seemed completely clueless about what to do when you get that horrible moment when the steering goes light on an icy patch or what to do when the back end snaps out of line on a slippery bit of snow. I'm not suggesting that we're sent on weekend breaks to Finland to learn how to drive a Mitsubishi Evo VIII rally car on a frozen lake to sharpen up our skills (although I'd be more than happy to volunteer!), but I'm sure that equipped with some snow-driving knowledge the recent conditions wouldn't have been as ominous.

Let's stop panicking about the snow and learn to drive on it instead. Then the Finns might stop taking the mickey out of us…

BMW is blending coupe chic with four wheel drive prowess

BMW is aiming to blend coupe chic with off-roader prowess with its new X2, which has just gone on sale across the North West. It's sleeker, lower and shorter than the X1 on which it's based, but beneath the skin it's equipped with the same BMW intelligent four-wheel-drive system. It's initially only available in 190bhp turbodiesel form, costing £33,980, but other versions of the X2 will be joining it in the showrooms later this year.

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Amount of Credit	£13,381.00
47 Monthly Payments	£189.76

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Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£16,897.72
APR Representative	4.2%

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Cash Price	£19,336.58
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Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£15,607.58
47 Monthly Payments	£229.98

Optional Final Payment	£6,650.00
Interest Charges	£1,865.77
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Total Amount Payable	£21,188.06
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Amount of Credit	£16.280.67
47 Monthly Payments	£239.00

Optional Final Payment	£6,983.00
Interest Charges	£1,935.33
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£18,955.00
APR Representative	4.2%

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£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£20,458.48
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Deposit Allowance	£1,200.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£18,509.48
47 Monthly Payments	£249.98

Optional Final Payment	£9,049.00
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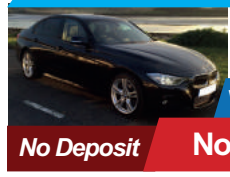

• Alloys • Priv Glass • Air Con

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62 Mercedes B180 1.6 Se Auto

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61 Mercedes C220 Cdi Sport Auto 4 Dr

• FSH • Alloys • Leather

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No Deposit Now £10,995

63 Audi A3 Tdi Sport 5 Dr

• 1 Owner • FSH • 56000 Miles

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No Deposit Now £11,495

65 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Tourer Sri

• VX Line • 1 Owner • 37000 Miles

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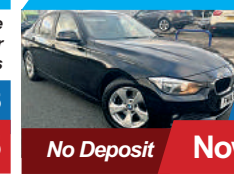
14 BMW 316 D 4 Dr



• 56000 Miles • Priv Glass • Alloys

Was £12,495

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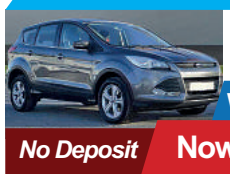
64 Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Zetec



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Remaining games to decide clubs' fate

BOTH West Lancashire clubs have a tough finish to the season and cannot afford to take their foot off the accelerator pedal, but avoiding relegation is achievable and is in their own hands.

This Saturday Skelmersdale are away to Trafford, then on Tuesday, March 13 they are away to Kendal Town in a rearranged league game, kick off 7.45pm. They are at home to Colne on Saturday, March 17.

Burscough are at home to promotion chasing Runcorn Town this Saturday then they have a Macron Cup Quarter-Final tie at home to Prestwich Heys on Tuesday, March 13. Completing a hat-trick of homes games is a vital home game against Barnton on Saturday, March 17.

16	Burscough	31	9	5	17	48	71	-23	32
17	West Didsbury & Chorlton	27	10	2	15	57	81	-24	32
18	Irlam	25	8	4	13	39	49	-10	28
19	Abbey Hey	27	8	4	15	43	58	-15	28
20	Maine Road	30	9	1	20	42	79	-37	28
21	AFC Liverpool	28	7	4	17	53	63	-10	25
22	AFC Darwen	26	3	5	18	29	87	-58	14

Burscough face a relegation battle in the North-West Counties League

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Skem and Burscough to kick-start survival battle after big freeze wipes out fixtures

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Josh Wardle in action for Skelmersdale in their recent match against Goole. Picture by John Driscoll.

BECAUSE the weather leaves us with no match reports to bring you this week, we thought we would have a look at what lies ahead for our local teams as the season heads towards its concluding two months.

With both Skelmersdale United and Burscough on the edge of the relegation zones but not actually in them in their respective divisions, what lies ahead for both teams?

Firstly relegation is a different entity this season because of scheduled reorganisation of the non-league football pyramid being carried out by the Football Association.

So we can only look at the situation as we understand things stand today; the Evo-Stik League look set to relegate one team from Skelmersdale's Division One North.

With Burscough's North-West Counties League set to relegate between four and six clubs from their Premier Division at the end of the season (no official announcement made), a very ambiguous position that has be taken into account by the Linnets.

It is also worth noting that Skelmersdale will play 42 league games and Burscough will play 44 games.

Essentially both teams made an indifferent start to the season and have spent time occupying bottom position, but improved on that in the autumn.

As the league tables show, it is fair to say that neither team is safe. Skelmersdale changed managers in September, Dave Powell replacing Alan Rogers, while Burscough have stood by manager Dave Sutton.

So, what are the chances of the two teams avoiding the disaster of relegation?

First let's look at present form. Skelmersdale's last ten league have brought four draws and six defeats, though that extended back to the last 20 games that would read won four drawn six and lost ten.

Over the season an average of 0.774 point per game has been achieved, they have played 31 and have 24 points, leaving 11 games to go.

Burscough have won eight, drawn one and lost seven of their last 15 games, before that they were on a big minus figure. T

he Linnets average 1.032 points per league game and that is probably higher if you left out the early season matches.

However, Burscough may need substantially more points to finish above sixth from bottom and avoid relegation than Skem need to avoid bottom place.

It can only be speculated on but in real terms Burscough could well need around 46 points to stay safe in seventh bottom position, Skelmersdale may get away with as low as 33 or 34 points.

In real terms that would leave Burscough needing another 14 points from their remaining 13 games, Skelmersdale would need perhaps 10 points from their remaining 11 games.

So what are the hopes of the two teams achieving these targets and what will they have to do to reach them?

We will look at who they have to play and make an assessment of expected results based on the respective league positions of the opposition they have to play.

Skelmersdale who it must be said are out of form face three games against promotion chasing opposition (all in April), so these are arguably probable defeats and any points would be an absolute bonus.

They face three games in which three points are vital and if they could achieve 7 points from these, namely Ossett Albion twice and a trip to Kendal Town who are not in the best of form themselves it would make a major contribution.

Leaving five games from which they really could do with a three or four point yield, if they do that they should just about grab safety. But it could be said that they do have to improve a little. Skem's last game is at Clitheroe on Saturday, April 28.

Burscough have 13 games. Four come under the difficult/unlikely category. Six are possible and three very likely wins, the three; AFC Liverpool home, Barnton home and Abbey Hey home, would bring nine points.

But what about the other five points? In Burscough's favour is present form that average points level alone would just about see them scrape home, but they too have to improve, slightly.

The six possible games are vital and finish with a trip to Winsford United on the last day of the season (Saturday, May 5).

17.	Kendal Town	30	4	4	7	4	2	9	8	6	16	47	66	-19	30
18.	Ramsbottom United	28	6	1	5	2	4	10	8	5	15	38	47	-9	29
19.	Brighouse Town	32	3	3	10	5	1	10	8	4	20	41	75	-34	28
20.	Skelmersdale United	31	4	3	9	1	6	8	5	9	17	36	66	-30	24
21.	Ossett Albion	28	4	5	6	1	2	10	5	7	16	28	59	-31	22
22.	Goole AFC	31	3	4	9	2	2	11	5	6	20	35	80	-45	21

Skem sit third from bottom in the Evo-Stik League Division One North table

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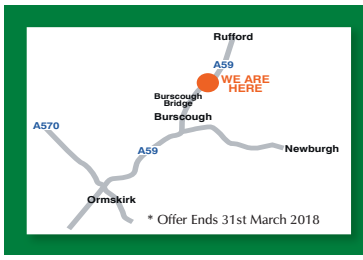

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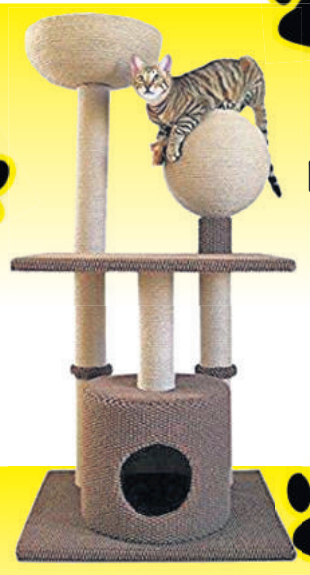

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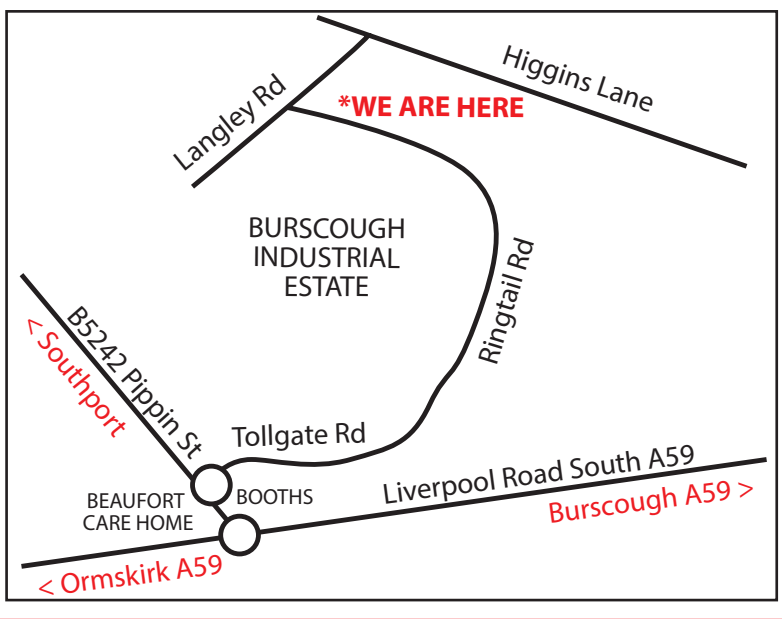

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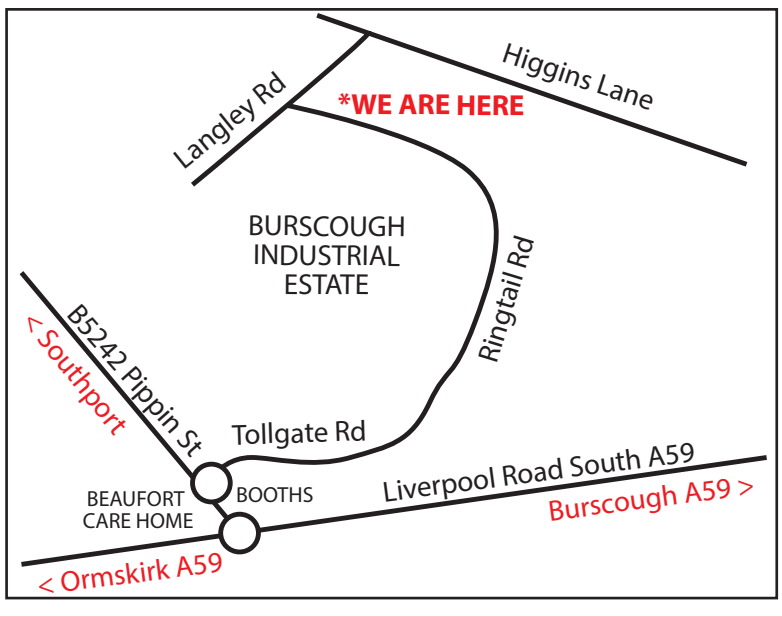

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